

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING

JUNE 3, 1999

BILL A. BUSBICE, JR.
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (225) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
JUNE 3, 1999

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, June 3, 1999

Chairman Bill Busbice presiding.

Tom Gattle
Danny Babin
Tom Kelly
Jerald Hanchey
Glynn Carver

Secretary James Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioner Norman McCall was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Busbice called for a motion for approval of the **May 6, 1999 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Babin and seconded by Commissioner Kelly. The motion passed with no opposition.

Donation by the Bowhunters Association for the Waddill Outdoor Education Center began with Mr. Wayne Huston stating a classroom was just completed on the Waddill site in Baton Rouge. Approximately 70 feet of blank wall space is available for painting of murals that will represent different habitat scenes and activities throughout the State. Mr. Vincent Darby has been chosen to paint the murals. Then the Department had to contact several organizations to help fund this project. The Bayou State Bowhunters Association has willingly donated \$2,500 for the first mural. Mr. Huston then introduced Mr. Russell Lantier with the Bowhunters Association. Mr. Lantier began thanking everyone for this opportunity and stated that the Association voted unanimously to make this donation. He then introduced Mr. Darby to the Commission and stated his work is well know throughout the region. Mr. Darby stated it was an honor to be asked to do the job. Secretary Jenkins stated he looks forward to seeing Mr. Darby's work.

Mr. Lantier then stated he had another check for the Conservation Fund for Mr. Tommy Prickett. The \$1,000 check would be used for the purchase of seedlings and/or acorns for reforestation projects. Mr. Prickett stated the Bayou State Bowhunters Association was one of the most active groups in the State and have been very helpful in working with the Department on special projects. He added the \$1,000 would be used to acquire seeds for reforestation this year.

Incentive Awards Presentation to two Department Employees was handled by Mrs. Joan Goings. The first employee, Mrs. Charlotte Naquin, was presented a check for \$250 for obtaining her Certified Professional Public Buyer's certification. The second employee, Mr. Chris Davis, was not present at the meeting. Mr. Prickett stated this one time monetary reward was for an employee completing a Civil Service training program that allows you to be a better manager and employee. He then noted Mrs. Naquin and Mr. Davis are only the second and third employees to be nominated for this award. Mr. Prickett accepted the check for Mr. Davis. Chairman Busbice congratulated both employees.

A Notice of Intent on **Black Bass Regulations, Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive Complex** was presented by Mr. Bennie Fontenot. This proposal would put a 14 inch minimum size length limit on these fish in the area. Mr. Fontenot then introduced Mr. Mike Walker, the district biologist for the area, and stated he had a brief presentation to make on this proposal. Mr. Walker began stating the Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive Complex is a myriad of bayous, canals and bar pits connected to the lakes and comprises 25,000 to 30,000 acres total. Sampling performed has included electrofishing, electrofishing for forage samples, collecting otoliths, age and growth, and total length at capture. The electrofishing samples done in 1990 showed a total of 8 fish captured; in 1993 the samples again were relatively poor with 18 fish taken; in 1994, 35 fish were caught; 17 fish were captured in 1995; and 72 samples were taken in 1996. The relative weights from the samples taken were in the acceptable range. In 1998, 47 fish were sampled, total catch per unit effort was 63 and there were smaller fish caught in the 3 to 7 inch size group. The complex show it does have a good supply of forage fish, bream and shad. The age and growth at capture taken this year resulted in the largest sample being in the age 1 class. If the proposed regulation is implemented, Mr. Walker stated the fish would be protected up to age 2 and this would allow the fish to spawn at least one time. The reason for the low number in the sample sizes

could be from either habitat or fishing pressure or a combination of both.

Commissioner Babin asked if the general public in the area was for this proposed regulation? Mr. Walker stated yes, they are in favor. A public hearing was held in the area and it was unanimously supported that the 14 inch minimum proposal be implemented. Chairman Busbice asked Mr. Walker to explain the terrain in the lake. Mr. Walker stated Lake Fausse Point may have held some deep water, but major changes in the habitat due to agricultural development and an increase in human population has occurred. This has caused the lake to become shallower. Commissioner Carver asked if there were any agricultural operations and if the lake has been checked for chemicals? Mr. Walker stated the lake is surrounded by sugar cane operations and the lake has not been checked for chemicals. Then Commissioner Carver stated the data does not support a 14 inch minimum, but the regulation should not be any less than 14 inches. Mr. Walker added the staff will continue sampling the area to see if any major changes have occurred.

Mr. Malcolm Crochet, Loreauville, stated Mr. Walker covered most of the information he was going to discuss. The water in the lake becomes muddy at the same time as spawning occurs, and that leaves only 20 percent of quality water for spawning. The fishermen are concentrating in this 20 percent area and harvesting all of the fish. Mr. Crochet then explained how efforts to restock the lake with transplanted bass and releasing fingerlings have been going on since 1992. A management program was needed for the lake and the 14 inch minimum would be supported. He concluded stating the people in the area wants help in stabilizing the population and then proceed to make adjustments from there.

Commissioner Carver made a motion to accept the Notice of Intent and it was seconded by Commissioner Gattle. The motion passed with no opposition. Commissioner Babin asked Mr. Fontenot to keep the Commission informed on a continuing basis.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to establish the following rule on black bass (Micropterus spp.) on the Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive complex located west of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee in Iberia and Upper St. Martin Parishes, Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§189. Black Bass Regulations, Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive Complex

A. The harvest regulations for black bass (Micropterus spp.) on the Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive complex located west of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee in Iberia and St. Martin Parishes, Louisiana is as follows:

1. Size limit: It shall be unlawful to take or possess, while on the water or while fishing in the water, black bass less than 14 inches total length.

2. Daily take: No more than 10 fish.

B. These regulations apply to all areas west of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee from Highway 3083 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers locks at the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal, north of and including the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal from the Corps of Engineers locks to Highway 87, north and east of Highway 87 from the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal to Highway 320, east of Highway 320 from Highway 87 to Highway 86, south and east of Highway 86 from Highway 320 to Highway 345, east of Highway 345 from Highway 86 to Highway 679, east of Highway 679 from Highway 345 to Highway 3083 and south of Highway 3083 from Highway 679 to the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25) (a), R.S. 56:325(C) and R.S. 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including, but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Mr. Mike Walker, Biologist Supervisor, Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2415 Darnall Road, New Iberia, LA 70560 no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 6, 1999.

Bill A. Busbice, Jr.
Chairman

Chairman Busbice then asked if there were any **Public Comments - 1999-2000 Hunting Regulations**. Mr. Russell Lantier, Bayou State Bowhunters Association, stated he wanted to talk about taking hogs on wildlife management areas with bird shot. The issue is that an excessive amount of hogs are being blinded, wounded or maimed. With the animal rights advocates, this type of hunting could flare up in the near future. Mr. Lantier knew the hog populations needed to be controlled, but asked, if feasible, to consider using an alternative mean to control the hog population. Commissioner Carver asked Mr. Lantier if he had any data to support what he said? He answered no. Then Commissioner Carver stated he understood his point, but also knew this type of hunting was an opportunity to take more hogs. Then he asked Mr. Tommy Prickett if they were trying to control the hog population? Mr. Prickett stated the management objective was to eliminate the population, but that has been unsuccessful. The second alternative was to give hunters the maximum opportunity to limit the population. Commissioner Gattle asked if the Department was trying to rid the hog population on the WMAs? Mr. Prickett stated yes. Chairman Busbice agreed since hogs compete for food and repopulate very rapidly.

Then Mr. Lantier stated he provided each Commissioner a video entitled, "It's Not a Bow". The video was a fact filled video developed specifically for Legislators and Commissioners on the use

of crossbows and draw locks and where Louisiana's bowhunters stand on these issues.

Mr. Tommy Prickett stated the process for public comments was closing with ratification of these rules and regulations occurring at the July Meeting. A considerable amount of public comments have been received from each Commission Meeting as well as 4 hearings held throughout the State. One potential change that may come up at the next meeting is to change the time hunters will be allowed to enter a wildlife management area from the suggested two hours before legal shooting time to a fixed time of 3:00 AM. The Commissioners received a synopsis of comments from these meetings, from telephone calls and letters. Mr. Prickett then explained some of the favorable and unfavorable changes made this year. Chairman Busbice asked if any more information has been received on youth hunt weekends? Mr. Prickett stated several pieces of legislation may impact the hunting regulations. One involves setting a statewide youth hunt prior to the regular gun deer season in each deer hunting area of the State. If this passes, a Declaration of Emergency may need to be implemented to set these season dates. Other pieces of possible legislation includes allowing hunters over 60 years of age to use magnifying scopes on their muzzleloaders during that season; and that owners of land within boundaries of WMAs hunt the same days as the general hunting season outside the WMAs. Commissioner Carver asked what happens if a landowner only owns 40 acres within a WMA, he does not qualify to be a DMAP member. Mr. Prickett stated a provision is in the rule to amend the DMAP regulations that would allow landowners within a WMA be enrolled regardless of their size. Commissioner Carver felt this could create difficulties within the wildlife management areas.

Chairman Busbice then asked for **Public Comments - DMAP Rule** and none were heard. Commissioner Babin asked about clarifying the language on the key issue and would it be corrected before the final rule is promulgated? Mr. Prickett stated staff would try to develop better wording and include that change in a News Release. The intent of the new regulation is to provide vehicle access to DMAP camps, not access to their camps. Commissioner Babin stated he has received calls from individuals who have misinterpreted this language. Commissioner Gattle stated he has also received calls on the same issue. Chairman Busbice asked if a wildlife agent has the right to a key for properties that are not under the DMAP program? Major Keith LaCaze stated if the lands are not under the DMAP program, a key does not have to be provided. But if an agent feels there is probable cause, that agent can enter the area on foot.

Mr. Don Puckett added that there are Supreme Court cases which have upheld random patrols on non-DMAP lands. Commissioner Babin stated the intent of the language was to gain access to the property and not any storage facilities, camps or homes.

Marsh Island Alligator Hunt Report and Proposal for Public Comment began with Mr. Brandt Savoie stating the Commission does not have to take any action. But to be in compliance with Deed of Donation from the Russell Sage Foundation, the proposal needs to be opened for public comment. Mr. Savoie then introduced Mr. Noel Kinler and stated he would make a presentation on the hunt and proposal. Mr. Kinler began stating Marsh Island is a 70,000 acre refuge located within the shores of Vermilion Bay, and consists mainly of brackish marsh. The area is manned on a 24 hour basis. Marsh Island was donated to the State by the Russell Sage Foundation back in 1920 and its primary management objective is to protect wintering waterfowl. A primary tool used on the area is water control management with a fixed crest weir and a flat gated structure. In 1981, a research project on alligators began and the overall objective has been to add to the long term database of alligator biology so it can be applied to the statewide harvest program. In 1986, a harvest program was included in the project to evaluate reproductive performance, evaluate nest production on the refuge, evaluate an alternate time of harvest, evaluate the feasibility of moving alligators from the marsh into a processing facility, look at the size class frequency distribution and to look at a population model. The objectives have been changed somewhat over the years, and the proposals for 1999 includes evaluation and survival of growth rates, mortality of farm released alligators, evaluate reproductive performance and correlate into nest counts, and evaluate the contribution of farm released alligators into the recruitment as compared to wild recruitment into the population. Mr. Kinler explained how the annual quota is obtained and stated the quota for 1999 will be 750 alligators. A procedure is followed to bid out the sale of these alligators before they are harvested. Applications are accepted from qualified hunters and then a lottery is conducted to select the hunters. Revenue generated is split between the hunters and the Department. A variety of data is collected, such as length, weight, sex, reproductive condition, body condition, and location of the harvest. The harvest is conducted by hunters, brought to the headquarters facility, placed in the hole of a shrimp boat and iced down, then moved to a processing facility. Since 1986, approximately 11,000 alligators have been harvested. The thrust of the program is to assess and improve the staff's ability to estimate wild alligator populations,

look at the distribution of size classes and use that information to generate optimum harvest quota for the annual seasons and the farming program. Commissioner Carver asked how is an alligator aged? Mr. Kinler stated they section the femur bone and look at the growth rings which is a very difficult task. Commissioner Carver asked if the staff has any percentage information on the survival of pen raised alligators brought back into the wild? Mr. Kinler stated information has been obtained not only from this program but also from the statewide program and it indicates farm released male alligators are surviving better than the females. The program is predicated on the fact that 17 percent survive to the four foot class. Chairman Busbice then opened the meeting to public comments and none were heard. Mr. Savoie thanked the Chairman and stated this would satisfy the obligations to the Deed of Donation.

The Monthly Law Enforcement Report for May was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during the month of May.

Region I - Minden - 181 citations and 125 warnings.

Region II - Monroe - 161 citations and 78 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 177 citations and 109 warnings.

Region IV - Ferriday - 164 citations and 7 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 378 citations and 95 warnings. Commissioner Babin asked about the confiscation of 1440 pounds of alleged alligator meat and 2356 pounds of turtle meat and was it similar to the cases made last month? Major LaCaze stated it was an additional case in which the alligator meat was being sold as turtle meat.

Region VI - Opelousas - 167 citations and 45 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 302 citations and 18 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 175 citations and 48 warnings.

Region IX - Thibodaux - 363 citations and 67 warnings.

Statewide Strike Force - 113 citations and 39 warnings. Commissioner Babin asked about the 2,900 pounds of shrimp sold in

Region VIII? Major LaCaze stated the shrimp were probably confiscated because the shrimpers were using oversized trawls. Chairman Busbice asked Major LaCaze to explain how the Statewide Strike Force works? The Statewide Strike Force was to have two officers from each region that would work statewide wherever a situation would occur that extra men were needed. They work the camp areas along the coast and will move to the northern part of the State during the hunting season. Chairman Busbice asked about the 10 cases of taking illegal deer? Commissioner Babin asked what areas were involved in this case? Chairman Busbice asked about the 35 boating violations made by the Statewide Strike Force?

SWEP - 25 citations and 0 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 68 citations and 0 warnings.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 25 citations and 0 warnings.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of May was 2,068. Also there were 662 warning citations issued for the month.

The aviation report for May 1999 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 106.5 hours for enforcement and 7.9 hours for other divisions.

Commissioner Gattle asked what was the difference between the amphib and float planes? Major LaCaze stated a float plane lands exclusively on water and an amphib can land on either land or water. Commissioner Babin asked if the 38 trip ticket violations from Region IX were for not filling out the forms properly or refusing to do the paperwork? Then he asked if fishing rodeos created problems for agents? Major LaCaze stated usually extra agents are brought into the area and the situation is monitored and under control. Chairman Busbice asked Col. Vidrine if he would be attending a meeting on trip tickets as requested by an Oyster group? Mr. John Roussel stated he talked with several people from the Enforcement Division and would attend the Oyster Task Force meeting and try to resolve the problem there. But if it does not get resolved, then they would advise the Chairman. Commissioner Babin asked what was the status on trip tickets in the Legislature? Mr. Roussel stated the only bill still alive was one that requires the Department to have electronic transfers in place by the year 2001. Commissioner Babin then asked if there was a bill to do away with trip tickets? Mr. Roussel stated there were several

resolutions to suspend the law, but as of now, they have not gone through the process.

Major LaCaze informed the Commission Lamar Advertising was donating ad space for the anti-poaching hotlines. There will be 40 signs displayed throughout the state. Chairman Busbice asked if the signs would be available year round, then he asked about next year? He then stated it was a very good deal. Major LaCaze also commented if an agent, while doing boating safety inspections, finds a child wearing his PFD, that child would be rewarded with a t-shirt with the logo "I got caught wearing my life jacket". The funding for this project came from sponsors in each Region. Commissioner Babin felt this was a wonderful and very positive program.

Chairman Busbice then asked Mr. Wayne Huston for the first **Division Report, Announce Grand Opening of the Waddill Outdoor Education Center**. Mr. Huston began stating it was a pleasure to announce the classroom building at Waddill was complete. The classroom has over 2,000 square feet of space with 2 offices. An invitation to the dedication of the building, which will be held on June 12, was given to each Commissioner. This will also be a free fishing day, so fishing activities will be going on in the ponds at Waddill. The building, paid entirely with federal funds, will add greatly to the education efforts in the greater Baton Rouge area.

Mr. Danny Timmer handled the next division report, **Statewide Turkey Report and Drawing for Shotguns**. The 1999 spring turkey season has just ended and for the past 12 years there have been voluntary weigh stations set up throughout the state. For this year, there were 1,891 turkeys checked in, which represents the highest number since this program began. Of this total, 78 percent were adults and 22 percent were juveniles. The yearly average for checking in turkeys is 1,415 birds. Of the 42 parishes with check stations, 57 percent showed an increase over 1998 numbers, 33 percent showed a decrease and 10 percent remained the same. The decrease accounted for only 1 to 5 or 6 turkeys. The turkeys taken statewide showed an increase in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 6, but a decrease occurred in Regions 4, 5 and 7. Mr. Mike Olinde divided the state into five turkey habitat regions which consisted of northwest loblolly, shortleaf, hardwood; north Mississippi delta; western longleaf pine; Atchafalaya South Mississippi delta; and southeast loblolly. A graph showed the southeast loblolly with a decline in the numbers of birds checked. The region that showed a steady increase was the northwest loblolly, shortleaf, hardwoods.

The other three regions had their up and down years. The staff's biggest concern are the north Mississippi delta and southeast loblolly regions. Mr. Timmer concluded stating the majority of the state is responding well to the management program. Commissioner Gattle asked if there was much data variation with the check-ins being voluntary? Mr. Timmer answered yes, some parts of the state are more eager to check-in their birds than other parts. Then Commissioner Gattle asked if the volunteerism is standard? Chairman Busbice asked what was the reason for the increase in harvest in Jackson and Bienville parishes? Mr. Timmer stated that area had excellent hatches for the last two years. Chairman Busbice asked if hunter participation stayed the same? Mr. Timmer commented the data was not yet available for this year.

Then Mr. Timmer introduced Mr. Paul Farrell with the National Wild Turkey Federation, which donates three guns every year for the hunters that weigh-in their turkeys. Mr. Farrell hoped the shotguns would be an incentive to hunters to weigh in their turkeys. Mr. Timmer stated, for the purpose of the drawing, the areas have been divided into districts. Mr. Farrell gave a brief description on the health of the Louisiana Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation. Mr. Timmer announced that a good portion of the funds from the Federation is spent on the wildlife management areas for equipment and habitat improvement. From Districts 1 & 2, the winner, #544, was Mr. Chuck Smith who killed a 17 pound bird in Union Parish. Districts 3, 4 & 5 winner #786 was Mr. Paul Baker, Woodworth, and he killed a 12 pound jake. The winner for Districts 6 & 7, #1275 was Mr. Buster Garrison, Denham Springs, and he killed a 20 1/2 pound turkey. Mr. Timmer expressed appreciation to the Commission and Mr. Farrell for their time. He then stated, the staff would present their recommendations for the 2000 turkey season at the next Commission Meeting.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners agreed to hold the **October 1999 Meeting** on Thursday, October 7, 1999 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Busbice then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mr. Joe Macaluso suggested the Commission and Department have several pages in the front of the hunting and fishing pamphlets that outlines the major changes from the previous year. Another suggestion was to have the pamphlets printed with larger type. Mr. Phil Bowman stated the process has already been initiated to highlight the changes in the pamphlet with a different color and increase the print size and the pamphlet size. Hopefully, these

changes in the pamphlet will make it much easier to understand and to read. Mr. Bowman then reminded the Commission two sets of rules were being promulgated this year for the hunting seasons.

Commissioner Gattle asked for an update on the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery? Mr. John Roussel stated Fish Pro was given the contract to look at the hatchery and try to find the specific problem and who was at fault. A preliminary report has been prepared with the hopes to go one step further and do some additional soil sampling. The contract has been modified with Fish Pro so they can go on to the next step. Production was substantially up this spring from last year, stated Mr. Roussel. An agreement with the Federal Fish Hatchery was reached to use some of their pond space this year and then reprogrammed the pond space at Beechwood Hatchery to raise fingerlings. Mr. Roussel stated approximately 4,000,000 Florida bass were stocked this year. Also, there was an increase in the broodstock capacity. The goal of stocking Florida bass in all of the requested lakes was reached. Right now, the hatchery is in the process of spawning catfish. Mr. Roussel reported other states are having the same problems we are having with water under the liners. Commissioner Gattle asked if Fish Pro has established that water under the liners was from the levees? Mr. Roussel stated no conclusion has definitely been reached. Commissioner Gattle then asked about the suggestion of capping the levees and was it still a possibility? Mr. Roussel stated that idea was on hold for now.

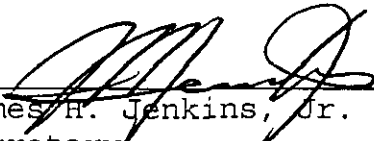
Commissioner Gattle stated he was glad to hear that the charter boat captains were having to come to Baton Rouge to obtain their \$2.50 license books. He then stated he received a comment from a charter boat captain, that it could take three or four days to come to Baton Rouge and they may miss a couple of trips. The captain suggested the Department allowing them to pre-pay for their licenses. Commissioner Gattle asked Mr. Roussel to consider this request. Mr. Roussel stated he would speak with Mrs. Janis Landry and see if that situation could be addressed.

Commissioner Gattle stated he wanted to encourage the Department to do whatever possible and have each district participate in the National Hunting and Fishing Day event. He suggested contacting organizations around the state to help monetarily with putting this event on.

Commissioner Babin asked what was the status of the Department during this Legislative Session? Secretary Jenkins stated the

Department is doing good, and is getting good reception. He added the Department needs to figure out how to get some money.

There being no further business, Commissioner Babin made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Carver.


James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

MB
6-28-99

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to establish the following rule on black bass (Micropterus spp.) on the Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive complex located west of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee in Iberia and Upper St. Martin Parishes, Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§189. Black Bass Regulations, Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive Complex

A. The harvest regulations for black bass (Micropterus spp.) on the Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive complex located west of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee in Iberia and St. Martin Parishes, Louisiana is as follows:

1. Size limit: It shall be unlawful to take or possess, while on the water or while fishing in the water, black bass less than 14 inches total length.

2. Daily take: No more than 10 fish.

B. These regulations apply to all areas west of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee from Highway 3083 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers locks at the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal, north of and including the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal from the Corps of Engineers locks to Highway 87, north and east of Highway 87 from the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal to Highway 320, east of Highway 320 from Highway 87 to Highway 86, south and east of Highway 86 from Highway 320 to Highway 345, east of Highway 345 from Highway 86 to Highway 679, east of Highway 679 from Highway 345 to Highway 3083 and south of Highway 3083 from Highway 679 to the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25) (a), R.S. 56:325(C) and R.S. 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including, but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Mr. Mike Walker, Biologist Supervisor, Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2415 Darnall Road, New Iberia, LA 70560 no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 6, 1999.

Bill A. Busbice, Jr.
Chairman

Chairman Busbice then asked if there were any **Public Comments - 1999-2000 Hunting Regulations**. Mr. Russell Lantier, Bayou State Bowhunters Association, stated he wanted to talk about taking hogs on wildlife management areas with bird shot. The issue is that an excessive amount of hogs are being blinded, wounded or maimed. With the animal rights advocates, this type of hunting could flare up in the near future. Mr. Lantier knew the hog populations needed to be controlled, but asked, if feasible, to consider using an alternative mean to control the hog population. Commissioner Carver asked Mr. Lantier if he had any data to support what he said? He answered no. Then Commissioner Carver stated he understood his point, but also knew this type of hunting was an opportunity to take more hogs. Then he asked Mr. Tommy Prickett if they were trying to control the hog population? Mr. Prickett stated the management objective was to eliminate the population, but that has been unsuccessful. The second alternative was to give hunters the maximum opportunity to limit the population. Commissioner Gattle asked if the Department was trying to rid the hog population on the WMAs? Mr. Prickett stated yes. Chairman Busbice agreed since hogs compete for food and repopulate very rapidly.

Then Mr. Lantier stated he provided each Commissioner a video entitled, "It's Not a Bow". The video was a fact filled video developed specifically for Legislators and Commissioners on the use

of crossbows and draw locks and where Louisiana's bowhunters stand on these issues.

Mr. Tommy Prickett stated the process for public comments was closing with ratification of these rules and regulations occurring at the July Meeting. A considerable amount of public comments have been received from each Commission Meeting as well as 4 hearings held throughout the State. One potential change that may come up at the next meeting is to change the time hunters will be allowed to enter a wildlife management area from the suggested two hours before legal shooting time to a fixed time of 3:00 AM. The Commissioners received a synopsis of comments from these meetings, from telephone calls and letters. Mr. Prickett then explained some of the favorable and unfavorable changes made this year. Chairman Busbice asked if any more information has been received on youth hunt weekends? Mr. Prickett stated several pieces of legislation may impact the hunting regulations. One involves setting a statewide youth hunt prior to the regular gun deer season in each deer hunting area of the State. If this passes, a Declaration of Emergency may need to be implemented to set these season dates. Other pieces of possible legislation includes allowing hunters over 60 years of age to use magnifying scopes on their muzzleloaders during that season; and that owners of land within boundaries of WMAs hunt the same days as the general hunting season outside the WMAs. Commissioner Carver asked what happens if a landowner only owns 40 acres within a WMA, he does not qualify to be a DMAP member. Mr. Prickett stated a provision is in the rule to amend the DMAP regulations that would allow landowners within a WMA be enrolled regardless of their size. Commissioner Carver felt this could create difficulties within the wildlife management areas.

Chairman Busbice then asked for **Public Comments - DMAP Rule** and none were heard. Commissioner Babin asked about clarifying the language on the key issue and would it be corrected before the final rule is promulgated? Mr. Prickett stated staff would try to develop better wording and include that change in a News Release. The intent of the new regulation is to provide vehicle access to DMAP camps, not access to their camps. Commissioner Babin stated he has received calls from individuals who have misinterpreted this language. Commissioner Gattle stated he has also received calls on the same issue. Chairman Busbice asked if a wildlife agent has the right to a key for properties that are not under the DMAP program? Major Keith LaCaze stated if the lands are not under the DMAP program, a key does not have to be provided. But if an agent feels there is probable cause, that agent can enter the area on foot.

Mr. Don Puckett added that there are Supreme Court cases which have upheld random patrols on non-DMAP lands. Commissioner Babin stated the intent of the language was to gain access to the property and not any storage facilities, camps or homes.

Marsh Island Alligator Hunt Report and Proposal for Public Comment began with Mr. Brandt Savoie stating the Commission does not have to take any action. But to be in compliance with Deed of Donation from the Russell Sage Foundation, the proposal needs to be opened for public comment. Mr. Savoie then introduced Mr. Noel Kinler and stated he would make a presentation on the hunt and proposal. Mr. Kinler began stating Marsh Island is a 70,000 acre refuge located within the shores of Vermilion Bay, and consists mainly of brackish marsh. The area is manned on a 24 hour basis. Marsh Island was donated to the State by the Russell Sage Foundation back in 1920 and its primary management objective is to protect wintering waterfowl. A primary tool used on the area is water control management with a fixed crest weir and a flat gated structure. In 1981, a research project on alligators began and the overall objective has been to add to the long term database of alligator biology so it can be applied to the statewide harvest program. In 1986, a harvest program was included in the project to evaluate reproductive performance, evaluate nest production on the refuge, evaluate an alternate time of harvest, evaluate the feasibility of moving alligators from the marsh into a processing facility, look at the size class frequency distribution and to look at a population model. The objectives have been changed somewhat over the years, and the proposals for 1999 includes evaluation and survival of growth rates, mortality of farm released alligators, evaluate reproductive performance and correlate into nest counts; and evaluate the contribution of farm released alligators into the recruitment as compared to wild recruitment into the population. Mr. Kinler explained how the annual quota is obtained and stated the quota for 1999 will be 750 alligators. A procedure is followed to bid out the sale of these alligators before they are harvested. Applications are accepted from qualified hunters and then a lottery is conducted to select the hunters. Revenue generated is split between the hunters and the Department. A variety of data is collected, such as length, weight, sex, reproductive condition, body condition, and location of the harvest. The harvest is conducted by hunters, brought to the headquarters facility, placed in the hole of a shrimp boat and iced down, then moved to a processing facility. Since 1986, approximately 11,000 alligators have been harvested. The thrust of the program is to assess and improve the staff's ability to estimate wild alligator populations,

look at the distribution of size classes and use that information to generate optimum harvest quota for the annual seasons and the farming program. Commissioner Carver asked how is an alligator aged? Mr. Kinler stated they section the femur bone and look at the growth rings which is a very difficult task. Commissioner Carver asked if the staff has any percentage information on the survival of pen raised alligators brought back into the wild? Mr. Kinler stated information has been obtained not only from this program but also from the statewide program and it indicates farm released male alligators are surviving better than the females. The program is predicated on the fact that 17 percent survive to the four foot class. Chairman Busbice then opened the meeting to public comments and none were heard. Mr. Savoie thanked the Chairman and stated this would satisfy the obligations to the Deed of Donation.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for May** was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during the month of May.

Region I - Minden - 181 citations and 125 warnings.

Region II - Monroe - 161 citations and 78 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 177 citations and 109 warnings.

Region IV - Ferriday - 164 citations and 7 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 378 citations and 95 warnings. Commissioner Babin asked about the confiscation of 1440 pounds of alleged alligator meat and 2356 pounds of turtle meat and was it similar to the cases made last month? Major LaCaze stated it was an additional case in which the alligator meat was being sold as turtle meat.

Region VI - Opelousas - 167 citations and 45 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 302 citations and 18 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 175 citations and 48 warnings.

Region IX - Thibodaux - 363 citations and 67 warnings.

Statewide Strike Force - 113 citations and 39 warnings. Commissioner Babin asked about the 2,900 pounds of shrimp sold in

Region VIII? Major LaCaze stated the shrimp were probably confiscated because the shrimpers were using oversized trawls. Chairman Busbice asked Major LaCaze to explain how the Statewide Strike Force works? The Statewide Strike Force was to have two officers from each region that would work statewide wherever a situation would occur that extra men were needed. They work the camp areas along the coast and will move to the northern part of the State during the hunting season. Chairman Busbice asked about the 10 cases of taking illegal deer? Commissioner Babin asked what areas were involved in this case? Chairman Busbice asked about the 35 boating violations made by the Statewide Strike Force?

SWEP - 25 citations and 0 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 68 citations and 0 warnings.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 25 citations and 0 warnings.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of May was 2,068. Also there were 662 warning citations issued for the month.

The aviation report for May 1999 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 106.5 hours for enforcement and 7.9 hours for other divisions.

Commissioner Gattle asked what was the difference between the amphib and float planes? Major LaCaze stated a float plane lands exclusively on water and an amphib can land on either land or water. Commissioner Babin asked if the 38 trip ticket violations from Region IX were for not filling out the forms properly or refusing to do the paperwork? Then he asked if fishing rodeos created problems for agents? Major LaCaze stated usually extra agents are brought into the area and the situation is monitored and under control. Chairman Busbice asked Col. Vidrine if he would be attending a meeting on trip tickets as requested by an Oyster group? Mr. John Roussel stated he talked with several people from the Enforcement Division and would attend the Oyster Task Force meeting and try to resolve the problem there. But if it does not get resolved, then they would advise the Chairman. Commissioner Babin asked what was the status on trip tickets in the Legislature? Mr. Roussel stated the only bill still alive was one that requires the Department to have electronic transfers in place by the year 2001. Commissioner Babin then asked if there was a bill to do away with trip tickets? Mr. Roussel stated there were several

resolutions to suspend the law, but as of now, they have not gone through the process.

Major LaCaze informed the Commission Lamar Advertising was donating ad space for the anti-poaching hotlines. There will be 40 signs displayed throughout the state. Chairman Busbice asked if the signs would be available year round, then he asked about next year? He then stated it was a very good deal. Major LaCaze also commented if an agent, while doing boating safety inspections, finds a child wearing his PFD, that child would be rewarded with a t-shirt with the logo "I got caught wearing my life jacket". The funding for this project came from sponsors in each Region. Commissioner Babin felt this was a wonderful and very positive program.

Chairman Busbice then asked Mr. Wayne Huston for the first **Division Report, Announce Grand Opening of the Waddill Outdoor Education Center**. Mr. Huston began stating it was a pleasure to announce the classroom building at Waddill was complete. The classroom has over 2,000 square feet of space with 2 offices. An invitation to the dedication of the building, which will be held on June 12, was given to each Commissioner. This will also be a free fishing day, so fishing activities will be going on in the ponds at Waddill. The building, paid entirely with federal funds, will add greatly to the education efforts in the greater Baton Rouge area.

Mr. Danny Timmer handled the next division report, **Statewide Turkey Report and Drawing for Shotguns**. The 1999 spring turkey season has just ended and for the past 12 years there have been voluntary weigh stations set up throughout the state. For this year, there were 1,891 turkeys checked in, which represents the highest number since this program began. Of this total, 78 percent were adults and 22 percent were juveniles. The yearly average for checking in turkeys is 1,415 birds. Of the 42 parishes with check stations, 57 percent showed an increase over 1998 numbers, 33 percent showed a decrease and 10 percent remained the same. The decrease accounted for only 1 to 5 or 6 turkeys. The turkeys taken statewide showed an increase in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 6, but a decrease occurred in Regions 4, 5 and 7. Mr. Mike Olinde divided the state into five turkey habitat regions which consisted of northwest loblolly, shortleaf, hardwood; north Mississippi delta; western longleaf pine; Atchafalaya South Mississippi delta; and southeast loblolly. A graph showed the southeast loblolly with a decline in the numbers of birds checked. The region that showed a steady increase was the northwest loblolly, shortleaf, hardwoods.

The other three regions had their up and down years. The staff's biggest concern are the north Mississippi delta and southeast loblolly regions. Mr. Timmer concluded stating the majority of the state is responding well to the management program. Commissioner Gattle asked if there was much data variation with the check-ins being voluntary? Mr. Timmer answered yes, some parts of the state are more eager to check-in their birds than other parts. Then Commissioner Gattle asked if the volunteerism is standard? Chairman Busbice asked what was the reason for the increase in harvest in Jackson and Bienville parishes? Mr. Timmer stated that area had excellent hatches for the last two years. Chairman Busbice asked if hunter participation stayed the same? Mr. Timmer commented the data was not yet available for this year.

Then Mr. Timmer introduced Mr. Paul Farrell with the National Wild Turkey Federation, which donates three guns every year for the hunters that weigh-in their turkeys. Mr. Farrell hoped the shotguns would be an incentive to hunters to weigh in their turkeys. Mr. Timmer stated, for the purpose of the drawing, the areas have been divided into districts. Mr. Farrell gave a brief description on the health of the Louisiana Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation. Mr. Timmer announced that a good portion of the funds from the Federation is spent on the wildlife management areas for equipment and habitat improvement. From Districts 1 & 2, the winner, #544, was Mr. Chuck Smith who killed a 17 pound bird in Union Parish. Districts 3, 4 & 5 winner #786 was Mr. Paul Baker, Woodworth, and he killed a 12 pound jake. The winner for Districts 6 & 7, #1275 was Mr. Buster Garrison, Denham Springs, and he killed a 20 1/2 pound turkey. Mr. Timmer expressed appreciation to the Commission and Mr. Farrell for their time. He then stated, the staff would present their recommendations for the 2000 turkey season at the next Commission Meeting.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners agreed to hold the **October 1999 Meeting** on Thursday, October 7, 1999 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Busbice then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mr. Joe Macaluso suggested the Commission and Department have several pages in the front of the hunting and fishing pamphlets that outlines the major changes from the previous year. Another suggestion was to have the pamphlets printed with larger type. Mr. Phil Bowman stated the process has already been initiated to highlight the changes in the pamphlet with a different color and increase the print size and the pamphlet size. Hopefully, these

changes in the pamphlet will make it much easier to understand and to read. Mr. Bowman then reminded the Commission two sets of rules were being promulgated this year for the hunting seasons.

Commissioner Gattle asked for an update on the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery? Mr. John Roussel stated Fish Pro was given the contract to look at the hatchery and try to find the specific problem and who was at fault. A preliminary report has been prepared with the hopes to go one step further and do some additional soil sampling. The contract has been modified with Fish Pro so they can go on to the next step. Production was substantially up this spring from last year, stated Mr. Roussel. An agreement with the Federal Fish Hatchery was reached to use some of their pond space this year and then reprogrammed the pond space at Beechwood Hatchery to raise fingerlings. Mr. Roussel stated approximately 4,000,000 Florida bass were stocked this year. Also, there was an increase in the broodstock capacity. The goal of stocking Florida bass in all of the requested lakes was reached. Right now, the hatchery is in the process of spawning catfish. Mr. Roussel reported other states are having the same problems we are having with water under the liners. Commissioner Gattle asked if Fish Pro has established that water under the liners was from the levees? Mr. Roussel stated no conclusion has definitely been reached. Commissioner Gattle then asked about the suggestion of capping the levees and was it still a possibility? Mr. Roussel stated that idea was on hold for now.

Commissioner Gattle stated he was glad to hear that the charter boat captains were having to come to Baton Rouge to obtain their \$2.50 license books. He then stated he received a comment from a charter boat captain, that it could take three or four days to come to Baton Rouge and they may miss a couple of trips. The captain suggested the Department allowing them to pre-pay for their licenses. Commissioner Gattle asked Mr. Roussel to consider this request. Mr. Roussel stated he would speak with Mrs. Janis Landry and see if that situation could be addressed.

Commissioner Gattle stated he wanted to encourage the Department to do whatever possible and have each district participate in the National Hunting and Fishing Day event. He suggested contacting organizations around the state to help monetarily with putting this event on.

Commissioner Babin asked what was the status of the Department during this Legislative Session? Secretary Jenkins stated the

Department is doing good, and is getting good reception. He added the Department needs to figure out how to get some money.

There being no further business, Commissioner Babin made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Carver.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

Joe Macaluso

The Advocate **ONLINE**

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The Wild Side headlines and date of publication

New look set for state regs --- 6/6/99

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The Wild Side

New look set for state regs

Most state Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meetings carry bad news for hunters and fishermen. It's bad news in the form of more and more regulations on what we can and can't do in the outdoors -- mostly about what we can't.

It's not the fault of the commission. They have to take steps to protect us, our animals and fish and our state lands from the folks who have grown up believing they can hunt and fish anytime they want and take from our lands anything they want.

That's OK, but what happened Thursday was a bit of good news amidst all those new regulations. If you've paid attention since March, then you know about proposed major changes in the Deer Management Assistance Program and on minimum-size limits on black bass in the Lake Fausse Point area.

A constant problem has been trying to keep up with new regulations, trying to figure out what changes we apply to what each of us does in our little part of Louisiana's vast outdoors.

For years, paying attention meant flipping through pages and pages of regulations just to find what the creel and size limits are for our fish, and when and where and how often we can access any of the dozens of state-owned wildlife management areas.

Ever try to read one of those hunting pamphlets? Or the Fishing Regulations booklet? You could go blind, which a lot of us in our late 40s and 50s are going anyway. (Yes, my arms have shortened over the last couple of years and focusing on all that small print is becoming more and more difficult).

At Thursday's meeting, Wildlife and Fisheries assistant secretary Phil Bowman said the department is taking steps to make it a little easier to understand state hunting and fishing regulations.

"For the 2000 season, we're planning to go to a larger booklet," Bowman said. "It'll be a lot easier to read, and we're planning to

Bowman said. "It'll be a lot easier to read, and we're planning to highlight the changes from the previous year in each section of the booklet."

That's great news, because another problem from year to year have been trying to figure out what's changed from the previous season.

If you've attended any March meeting over the last 20 years, you know the Wildlife Division presents its proposed seasons and bag limits for deer, rabbit, squirrel and quail at that meeting. There are pages and pages of changes -- regulations closing one loophole after another from previous years -- in addition to a posting of the simple calendar changes in opening and closing dates and splits for muzzleloader, archery and gun seasons.

That's coming next year. It's possible this year's booklets will have pages up front outlining the major changes from last year for the 1999-2000 hunting seasons.

"We plan to use more color to identify the changes from one year to the next," Bowman explained. "It's something we've been talking about for a couple of years. It's something that needs to be done."

Amen, brother.

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**COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL**

Thursday, June 3, 1999
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

	Attended	Absent
Bill Busbice (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Tom Kelly	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Daniel Babin	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Glynn Carver	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Tom Gattle	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Jerald Hanchey	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Norman McCall	<u>—</u>	<u>✓</u>

Mr. Chairman:

There are 6 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.
Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
June 3, 1999
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 6, 1999
3. Donation by the Bowhunters Association for the Waddill Outdoor Education Center - Lyle Soniat
4. Incentive Awards Presentation to two Department Employees - James Jenkins, Jr.
5. Black Bass Regulations, Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive Complex - Bennie Fontenot
6. Public Comments - 1999-2000 Hunting Regulations
7. Public Comments - DMAP Rule
8. Marsh Island Alligator Hunt Report and Proposal for Public Comment - Brandt Savoie
9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May - Keith LaCaze
10. Division Reports
 - a. Announce Grand Opening of the Waddill Outdoor Education Center - Lyle Soniat
 - b. Statewide Turkey Report and Drawing for Shotguns - Danny Timmer
11. Set October 1999 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Adjournment

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BATON ROUGE, LA

June 3, 1999

10:00 AM

- ✓1. Roll Call
- ✓2. Approval of Minutes of May 6, 1999
- ✓3. Donation by the Bowhunters Association for the Waddill Outdoor Education Center - ~~Lyle Soniat~~ Wayne Huston
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- ✓5. Black Bass Regulations, Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive Complex - Bennie Fontenot
- ✓6. Public Comments - 1999-2000 Hunting Regulations
- ✓7. Public Comments - DMAP Rule
- ✓8. Marsh Island Alligator Hunt Report and Proposal for Public Comment - Brandt Savoie
- ✓9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May - Keith LaCaze
- ✓10. Division Reports
 - ✓a. Announce Grand Opening of the Waddill Outdoor Education Center - ~~Lyle Soniat~~ Wayne Huston
 - ✓b. Statewide Turkey Report and Drawing for Shotguns - Danny Timmer
- ✓11. Set October 1999 Meeting Date
- ✓12. Public Comments
13. Adjournment

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

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1. Size limit: It shall be unlawful to take or possess, while on the water or while fishing in the water, black bass less than 14 inches total length.

2. Daily take: No more than 10 fish.

B. These regulations apply to all areas west of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee from Highway 3083 to the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers locks at the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal, north of and including the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal from the Corps of Engineers locks to Highway 87, north and east of Highway 87 from the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal to Highway 320, east of Highway 320 from Highway 87 to Highway 86, south and east of Highway 86 from Highway 320 to Highway 345, east of Highway 345 from Highway 86 to Highway 679, east of Highway 679 from Highway 345 to Highway 3083 and south of Highway 3083 from Highway 679 to the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25) (a), 325 (C), 326.3.

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The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including, but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Mr. Mike Walker, Biologist Supervisor, Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2415 Darnall Rd.,

New Iberia, LA 70560 no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 6,
1999.

Bill A. Busbice, Jr.

Chairman

I'D LIKE TO BRIEFLY FOLLOW-UP ON AN ISSUE THAT WAS PRESENTED BEFORE THE LAST COMMISSION MEETING. IT HAS TO DO WITH THE TAKING OF HOGS ON OUR WMAS WITH SHOT SIZES THAT ARE TYPICALLY CALLED BIRD SHOT... OR SQUIRREL SHOT.

THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION BY SEVERAL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE FROM THE AREA NEAR THE PEARL RIVER WMA. AS IT'S BEEN EXPLAINED TO US, ITS CURRENTLY LEGAL TO ATTEMPT TO HARVEST HOGS WITH THESE SMALL SHOT SIZES, AS THE SQUIRREL, DOVE, AND/OR TEAL SEASONS OPEN.

WHAT'S AT ISSUE, IS THAT AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF THESE HOGS ARE BEING BLINDED, WOUNDED AND MAIMED AS A RESULT. NOW, THIS CERTAINLY IS NOT A BOWHUNTING ISSUE.... BUT IT IS A HUNTING ISSUE, AND ONE OF OUR CONCERNS HAS ALWAYS BEEN FOR THE FUTURE OF ALL HUNTING SPORTS IN THIS COUNTRY. THE ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ARE OUT THERE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LOOK AT THE SPRING BEAR SEASON THAT'S RECENTLY BEEN BANNED IN ONTARIO TO KNOW THAT THE THREAT IS REAL.

LIKE IT OR NOT, THE TIMES... THEY ARE A'CHANGIN'. THIS ISSUE WITH THE HOGS IS A POTENTIAL SPARK THAT COULD FLARE UP IN ALL OF OUR FACES IN THE NEAR FUTURE. NOW.... WE CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND THAT THESE HOGS DIRECTLY COMPETE FOR HABITAT AND FOR FOOD WITH OTHER GAME SPECIES... AND THE POPULATIONS NEED TO BE CONTROLLED.

SO, ALL WE'RE ASKING IS THAT, IF IT'S FEASIBLE, FOR THE COMMISSION, AND EXPERTS... THE BIOLOGISTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER LOOKING INTO ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF CONTROLLING THESE POPULATIONS.

3 I N T E R
O F F I C E



MEMO

To: Chairman and Members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
From: Tommy Prickett, Administrator, Wildlife Division
Subject: Public comments regarding WMA and hunting seasons
Date: June 2, 1999

Enclosed is a capitulation of public comments on changes to WMA rules, deer hunting, DMAP and miscellaneous other comments. There were no areas that generated a large number of comments outside of dog hunting issues and Area 2 hunting date suggestions. Areas that drew comments were:

- Increase/open/extend dog seasons (7)
- Deer season opening dates in Area 2 (5)
- Prohibit/reduce dog seasons (3)
- Move statewide opening back (3)
- Use tagging system for deer (1)
- Issue "dog stamps" by fee for dog hunters and standers (1)
- Cut out Dec 6-10 split in Area 1 (1)
- Different either-sex schedule for Atchafalaya Basin than rest of Area 6 (1)
- Hunting club complaint (1)

Comments regarding WMA rules were widely diverse. Hunting feral hogs with fine shot at Pearl River WMA generated a 300 + signature petition and a resolution from the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in opposition. There are a few miscellaneous comments and a few preliminary comments regarding DMAP changes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
DEER MANAGEMENT, WMA RULES, DMAP, OTHER
1 JUNE 1999

Deer Management

1. Deer season opening dates (Area 2)
 - Open season later (Claiborne Par.)
 - Open Area 2 and 3 on same day
 - Do not open Area 2 later (vacation schedule)
 - Split Area 2 into north/south zones
 - Open Area to to gun season on Nov. 6
2. Prohibit/reduce dog seasons
 - Reduce dog season to one month
 - Outlaw dog hunting
 - Prohibit dog hunting in portion of East Feliciana Par. (Two proposals: 1] Larger area proposed by Mr. Carl Bunch, 2] Smaller area proposed by E.F. Police Jury)
3. Increase/open/extend dog seasons
 - Two more dog days in Area 6 (Five calls were received on this item. In 1998, a calender adjustment gave Area 6 dog hunters two extra days of hunting. In 1999, the dog hunting schedule returns to 44 days. This total number of days has not changed over a number of years.)
 - Extend dog season to the full deer season in a portion of Catahoula Par.
 - Open dog season in a portion of Plaquemine Par. on the East Bank
4. Open statewide deer season two weeks later
5. Use tagging system for deer
6. Issue "dog stamps" for dog hunters and standers
7. Cut out Dec. 6-10 split in Area 1
8. Use different either-sex schedule in Atchafalaya Basin than the rest of Area 6
9. Open the northeast portion of Area 3 later
10. Open archery Nov. 1 and close end of Feb.
11. Complaint about hunting club activities

WMA Rules

1. Opposition to use of fine shot on feral hogs on Pearl River WMA (petition from group of bow hunters and resolution passed by La. Wildlife Federation)
2. Allow more "chase only" days for racoon hunters on WMAs
3. Establish a 10:00 PM - 6:00 AM curfew on WMAs
4. Close shooting hours at Pointe au Chien WMA at noon
5. Establish Attakapas WMA season the same as outside except still hunt only, or bucks only the week prior to Thanksgiving
6. Change deer seasons at Camp Beauregard WMA in response to La. National Guard training schedule
7. Give enforcement powers back to WMA employees
8. New open/close hours on WMAs too restrictive
9. Restrict motorized vehicles to main channels at Manchac WMA

Miscellaneous

1. Request for more youth hunting days
2. Request to close state to hunting on Thanksgiving and Christmas
3. Request from St. Landry Police Jury to open hunting season the week after elections

DMA

1. Concern about DMA hunters/guests losing tags
2. Concern about mandatory posting (rule was amended to comply with R.S. 56)
3. Complaint about providing keys to Enforcement

1998 Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge Experimental

Alligator Harvest Program

Submitted by

Noel Kinler

and

Lance Campbell

26 April 1999

1998 Experimental Alligator Harvest Program on Marsh Island Refuge

INTRODUCTION

The Department's alligator management activities on Marsh Island are based upon the Deed of Donation and the 1988 Memorandum of Understanding between the LDWF and the Russell Sage Foundation. The Deed of Donation specifically recognized the need to conduct studies of the animal life on the Refuge and provided for the harvest of both furbearers and alligators. Historically, nutria, muskrat, raccoon, river otter, mink and alligators were harvested within the framework of seasons established and administered through rules and regulations of the Department and or the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The 1988 MOU further clarified the context in which wildlife may be taken at Marsh Island and provided for the development and sale of by-products from the harvested wildlife. The MOU also established a notification and review process for Department's proposed activities.

Louisiana's current alligator management program dates back to 1972 when the Department reopened the season in Cameron Parish. The harvest was gradually expanded and in 1981 was opened statewide wherever there was sufficient habitat to support a reproducing alligator population. The Department has long been recognized for its alligator research and management activities on an international basis and the results of the Department's alligator research has influenced the development of Crocodilian management programs in many countries. Louisiana continues to lead the world with a wild harvest of 28,000+ alligators annually and an egg harvest of over 275,000 in 1998. The egg harvest program includes a requirement to return a specified portion of alligators raised in captivity to the wild to maintain the wild alligator population.

Marsh Island provides ideal habitat for alligators and provides an excellent setting for research activities. The Department initiated the alligator research program on Marsh Island in 1981 to establish a data base to estimate alligator abundance, determine distribution by habitat type and management units, and assess population dynamics, reproductive rates, growth rates and other population parameters. This data base was needed to learn more about the alligator population on Marsh Island, to determine the affect of various water management practices (weirs and impoundments) on the alligator population and to provide data that could improve our management of the statewide alligator population.

With the development of a series of specific objectives in 1986, the alligator research was expanded to include a harvest program. This harvest program has provided critical information regarding our knowledge of alligator biology and in particular, reproductive performance. As a result, an alligator population model was developed that now forms the basis for the Department's assessment of wild alligator harvest rates and for comparisons of survivability of wild versus farm released alligators. In addition, we are analyzing the distribution of harvested alligators by size and sex classes as it relates to water management schemes currently employed on Marsh Island. Nest surveys are also conducted annually on Marsh Island and these too are being assessed by water management units on the Refuge. Clearly, the harvest research program is consistent with recognized wildlife management principles and with the continued maintenance and/or enhancement of the wildlife habitat.

Each year the data from all previous harvest are reviewed, the specific objectives assessed, and the needs for research from the Marsh Island perspective as well as from a statewide perspective are reviewed and a revised set of specific objectives and a harvest quota are developed. For the 1998

harvest, the emphasis was placed on continuation of the assessment of growth, survival and sexual maturation of, and recruitment provided by farm released alligators. Other objectives include assessment of reproductive rates, nest production, size and sex ratios, and other population parameters. The issue of survival of farm released alligators is the most critical issue facing the Department today. The alligator research program on Marsh Island is providing a long term data set relative to alligator biology and management. We have maintained continuity in the overall harvest scheme, particularly in data collection and in establishment of objectives and harvest quotas. Additionally, the Department remains cognizant of the management needs of Marsh Island and will design and plan future harvest strategies to meet those needs as well as those of the state's alligator management program while meeting all requirements set forth in the Deed of Donation and the MOU.

Harvest proposals and reports for each year's activities have provided detailed background information concerning previous Departmental alligator research, population estimation techniques, annual harvest statistics and other management activities on Marsh Island (Kinler 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996a, 1996b, Kinler and Campbell 1998a, 1998b, 1997a, 1997b and Kinler et al 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990a, 1990b).

METHODS

Kinler (1998b) outlined the objectives and procedures for the 1997 experimental harvest. The objectives were:

- 1) To evaluate survival, growth rates, movement, and maturation of farm-raised alligators released into the wild.

- 2) To evaluate the relative contribution of natural recruitment and farm released alligator recruitment to the harvest and to the Marsh Island alligator population.
- 3) To collect reproductive data to determine the proportion of adult-sized females (≥ 6 feet) nesting annually. Also to determine reproductive rates as related to marsh management units on Marsh Island (weired marsh, natural marsh and impoundment).
- 4) To conduct intensive alligator nest counts to further establish the relationship between reproductive rate and nest production and to correlate nest counts with water level and salinity data.
- 5) To evaluate an alternate time of annual harvest with the intent of changing the sex ratios in the harvest as ratios in summer harvested alligators.
- 6) To evaluate the accuracy of a calculated optimum harvest rate.

Marsh Island was selected as the study area due to its substantial population of alligators and its relative isolation from surrounding habitat. Additionally, total control of this Department owned and managed area was essential to collect the data necessary to fulfill the desired objectives. Complete control was required in placement of hunters, daily collection of field data, centralization of check-in for length, weight, sexing and collection of reproductive tracts and femurs, and sale of whole alligators. This control could only be accomplished by conducting the study on Department-owned property.

Timing of Harvest

The experimental harvest was planned to harvest alligators in July 1998. The function of this design was to obtain reproductive information from adult females harvested in July.

Harvest Quota

The data and calculations necessary to generate a harvest quota for the Marsh Island experimental harvest are listed in Figure 1. A harvest quota of 750 alligators was calculated. These alligators were harvested by the baited hook and line (fishing) method.

Hunter Selection

Based on the size of Marsh Island, the desired time to complete the harvest, and the projected base quota of 750 alligators, a total of 16 hunters were selected to participate in the harvest. Hunter selections were made by the buyer and approved by the Department. Enforcement background checks were conducted by the Department on the hunters nominated by the buyer. Any nominated hunter possessing a significant wildlife violation in the past 5 years was rejected. All 16 hunters nominated by the buyer were approved by the Department. All hunters were required to abide by a written contract.

Harvest Units

Marsh Island was divided into 16 harvest units (Figure 2). The units were designed to distribute the harvest over the entire 69,964 acre study area. In order to facilitate data analysis, unit boundaries were drawn so that the majority of the hunters would be harvesting alligators in only one habitat type (i.e., unweired brackish marsh, weired brackish marsh, or impoundment). Each hunter was assign to harvest alligators from a specific unit. If a hunter could not fill his quota from within a particular unit, he was allowed to utilize tags in another harvest unit.

Sale of Whole Alligators

On June 22, 1998, bids were opened and awarded to the highest bidder (Pelts and Skins, Table 1). The entire bid value went to the La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries - Marsh Island Fund. The buyer was responsible for payment of the hunters.

Data Collection

Hunters were required to take all alligators to the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge headquarters facility where the alligators were loaded into a refrigerated truck (located on a barge) provided by the buyer. The truck was then transported by barge to Luke's Landing, where it was driven off of the barge and to the processing plant at Lockport, La. Alligators were unloaded at the processing plant upon arrival.

Fur and Refuge Division personnel were stationed at the processing plant to aid in the unloading of alligators and to obtain harvest data. Once alligators had been unloaded at the processing plant, they were spread out on the floor and the following data were collected:

- 1) Alligator hide tag numbers
- 2) Length (feet and inches)
- 3) Weight (pounds)
- 4) Sex
- 5) All adult-size ($\geq 6'$) females were web tagged and the head was painted to identify for necropsy.
- 6) Obvious mutilations (i.e., cuts, bobtails, missing legs) were recorded.

Data were recorded on an official receipt form (used for all financial transactions between the buyer

and the Department) (Figure 3). This document was signed each day by Department and buyer representatives. Fur and Refuge Division personnel returned to the processing plant the following morning to assess and collect reproductive tracts. On each day, hunters were required to turn in unit maps (to Department personnel station at the refrigerated truck) illustrating the capture locations of each alligator harvested. Upon obtaining these maps, Department personnel provided hunters with a new unit map for the following day.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Hunter Success

Of the 750 tags issued for this experimental harvest, 726 were utilized during the 5 day season. This compares to 759 alligators harvested in the 5 day season in 1997 (Table 2). The 1998 harvest continues the trend of utilizing a high percentage of the allotted tags in an attenuated time frame.

Age and Sex Ratios

From July 13 through July 17, 1998, a total of 726 alligators were harvested from Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge. Adult ($\geq 6'$) alligators comprised 40% of the harvest. Age ratios for this harvest are consistent with those from previous years (1989-1997) and indicate population stability (Table 3). Within the adult segment, males comprised 62% and females 38%. Sex ratio of adult males (62%) is lower than in the 3 previous years (1995, 1996, 1997) (Table 4) but is in between the sex ratio (54%) for the 1986-98 average and the sex ratio (69.8%) for 2225 adult alligators sampled during the 1994 statewide alligator season in Louisiana (Ruth Elsey, LDWF, personnel

communication). The immature (< 6') segment of the harvest was characterized by 57% males and 43% females. In most previous harvest years (except 1993 and 1996) the immature sex ratio was skewed toward males and has averaged 56% males and 44% females since 1989.

Size Class Frequency Distribution

The SCFD of all alligators harvested since 1986 is listed in Table 5. The SCFD in 1998 was similar to the harvest years 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1996 and 1997 but showed an increase of 3% for 4' alligators, a decrease of 2% for 5' and 6' alligators, an increase of 1% for 7' alligators and a decrease of 1% for 9' alligators when compared to 1997. Some annual variation in the SCFD of harvested alligators is expected. Results in 1998 are similar to many previous years harvest statistics.

Average length of whole alligators harvested during 1998 was 5.8 feet (Table 2). Average length had been consistent since 1987 (ranged from 5.7 feet in 1990 to 6.2 feet in 1987). This compares to an average length of 6.0 feet in the Salvador WMA intensive harvest (Kinler and Taylor 1992).

Production Rates

During July 1998, 109 adult-sized female ($\geq 6'$) alligators were harvested. A total of 107 of these were examined for assessment of reproductive status (Table 6). The sample was skewed toward animals in the 6' class, of which 81% were immature. Only 26 animals were examined in the 7' and 8' size classes and 32% of those examined in the 7' class were immature. The overall production rate estimate of 4.7% was similar to 1995 through 1997, but much lower than years prior

to 1995 (Table 4) and can be attributed to the high proportion of adult-sized immature alligators in the sample. Production rate for mature adults was 14.7%. Interpretation of this years reproductive data must be done cautiously. The sample of only 34 mature animals out of 107 adult-sized females provides limited information on the actual reproductive effort in 1998.

Although data analysis is ongoing, 24 of the 107 adult-sized females harvested were farm released. Nineteen of the farm released females were sexually immature, 2 were quiescent and 3 were producers during the current nesting season. Of the 3 farm released female alligators harvested in the 7' size class, 2 were immature and 1 was a producer. The reproductive tracts of many of the immature animals were unique, as compared to other immature animals examined prior to 1995. The ovaries were enlarged with some follicular development and thickened, indicating that they were progressing toward sexual maturity. In the near future additional farm released alligators should begin contributing recruitment to the Marsh Island population.

Calculation of the harvest quota of 750 alligators (Figure 1) was based in part, on a 20% harvest of adult-sized females, yielding a projected harvest of 328, $\geq 6'$ female alligators. This figure was then reduced to a projected harvest of 188, $\geq 6'$ females of which only 109 were actually harvested. This equates to an actual harvest rate of 7% on the adult-sized female segment of the population.

Aerial nest surveys were conducted in June/July 1998. As in previous years, 22 total count units were surveyed in various habitats (impoundment, weired and non-weired) and all nests were staked and visited to verify egg deposition. We estimated a total of 280 nests were present on Marsh Island in 1998. This was above the 1993-97 average (261 nests) and within the range of nest production estimates (149 - 425 nests) for 1993-97. Nest production for 1998 showed a 34%

decrease from the previous year (Table 7).

Water levels in the Spring and early Summer are thought to influence annual alligator reproductive efforts. Excellent water levels in 1997 generated extremely high nest production. Severe drought conditions in southwest Louisiana in the Spring and early Summer of 1998 greatly reduced nest production. In Southwest Louisiana, nest production was estimated to be 54% lower in 1998 than the previous year. In privately owned brackish marshes in Cameron and Vermilion Parishes, nest production in 1998 was reduced by 73% and 38%, respectively. On Paul J. Rainey Sanctuary, located just West of Marsh Island, nest production was estimated to be 52% lower in 1998 than the previous year. The drought conditions and reduced nest production in 1998 was similar to those experienced in 1996 (Kinler and Campbell 1997a).

Environmental monitoring, including collection of water level and salinity (1 hour interval sampling) is conducted on Marsh Island. In the Fall of 1993, 2 YSI constant recorders were placed in two new water management units and 1 unit was established as a control site outside of these water management units. In 1995, 6 additional YSI 6000 multiprobes were placed in strategic locations to monitor water level and salinity in weired and unweired brackish marsh on Marsh Island. Efforts continue to analyze this data and to eventually compare long term nesting effort with water level and salinity data.

Farm Released Alligators

The Iberia Parish School Board owns approximately 1500 acres of marshland on Marsh Island. Along with a licensed alligator farmer, they participated in the Department's wild alligator egg collection program from 1989 through 1992. This program allows for alligator eggs to be

collected from the wild, incubated and alligators reared in controlled environmental chambers. Once the alligators reach 3'-5' in length a certain proportion of the alligators are returned to the wild to compensate for the eggs that were removed. Return rates vary by inch class from 29.6% for 3' alligators to 9.8% for 5' alligators.

La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries personnel are responsible for alligator egg collections on the Iberia Parish School Board property on Marsh Island. In addition to the release requirements from these egg collections, additional farm raised alligators have been released on Marsh Island to facilitate evaluation of this program. Prior to the 1998 season approximately 3851 farm raised alligators had been released on Marsh Island. In the 1990 season 6 of 66 available released alligators were harvested; in 1991, 83 of 420 available were harvested; in 1993, 208 of 2266 were harvested; in 1995, 179 of 2702 were harvested; in 1996, 183 of 2949 were harvested; and in 1997, 140 of 3036 were harvested (Table 8). A total of 3050 farm released alligators were potentially available for harvest in 1998 (we could not estimate those loss to natural causes). Of the 726 alligators harvested a total of 117 had been previously measured and tagged. These tagged alligators were from 3 sources: 1) Wild alligators tagged and released, 2) farm raised alligators tagged and released and 3) hatchling alligators marked and released. Identifying each of these alligators is a difficult and time consuming task due to loss of the monel metal web tags. We have tentatively determined that 77 of the 117 marked alligators were released from farms. These 77 alligators represented 10.6% of the total alligators harvested and 2.5% of the total farm released alligators potentially available for harvest (the actual percentage is higher due to mortality).

We have determined that 7 additional farm released alligators harvested on Marsh Island in 1998 were identified as having been released on areas other than Marsh Island (Table 9). Since

1995, 64%, 32% and 4% of these farm released alligators (harvested on Marsh Island but released elsewhere) were harvested within 1, 2 and 3 miles, respectively of the Refuge's shorelines. We are currently checking harvest records prior to 1995 for the possibility of farm released alligators which possess release sites other than Marsh Island.

The following items are being evaluated relative to the harvest of these farm-released alligators:

- 1) Growth rates,
- 2) Movement from release site to harvest site, and
- 3) Relative contribution of natural recruitment and farm released alligator recruitment to the harvest and to the Marsh Island alligator population.

Two manuscripts have been developed thus far; Elsey et al. (1992b) reports on growth rates and Elsey et al. (1992a) reports on food habits. Continued analysis of this data, along with information being collected from other research projects and the annual statewide harvest will provide information necessary to assess the ability of these farm-released alligators to survive and contribute recruitment to the wild population. Additionally, this information will be utilized to evaluate appropriate return rates for the Department's egg collection program.

POPULATION STATUS

The status of the Marsh Island alligator population in May 1995 is discussed in detail in Appendix A. In this document, harvest parameters such as percent tag utilization, season length, size class frequency distribution, age and sex ratios and average length were evaluated along with other population data including reproductive rates and nest counts. This document concluded that the

alligator population on Marsh Island was stable. Kinler and Campbell (1998a) followed this document with a continued discussion of Marsh Island alligator population status following the 1997 harvest.

Each of these harvest parameters from the 1998 season were closely evaluated and discussed in this document. There was slight deviation in some harvest parameters (average length, SCFD and sex ratios) during the 1998 harvest as compared to the 1989-1997 harvest statistics. However, similar changes have also been observed in prior year harvest statistics.

Each years harvest quota has been predicted, in part, on the projected harvest rate of 20% of the adult-sized female segment of the population. This high harvest rate has generated concern from various researchers. In the 1998 harvest, the actual harvest rate on this population segment was only 7%. In previous harvest, the actual rate was 7% in 1995-1997, 9% in 1991, 6% in 1990 and 9% in 1989.

The 1998 estimated nest production (280) was above the 1993-1997 average (261). Managers have long recognized that significant annual fluctuations in nest production are not generally caused by changes in population density but are reflections of the impact of various environmental, habitat and physiological factors on the alligators themselves (see discussion in Appendix A). Continued evaluation of salinity and water level data from Marsh Island should provide insight into this variation in nesting rates. In the case of Marsh Island, the harvest rates on the adult-sized female segment of the population since 1989, along with no harvest in 1991 and 1993, has provided an adequate base of nesting females for population maintenance and growth.

In conclusion, all data reviewed indicates continued stability in the current Marsh Island alligator population. Future harvest, based on review and utilization of current population data, will

not impact any segment of the Marsh Island alligator population.

SUMMARY

This experimental harvest has generated a large quantity of data. Data analysis is an ongoing process. We contracted Dr. Vernon Wright (Louisiana State University School of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries) to provide assistance in statistical analysis of this data during 1997 and 1998. We are currently in preparation of additional manuscripts based on his analysis. Emphasis is placed on the following aspects:

- 1) Reproductive data analysis,
- 2) Nest survey methodology comparison,
- 3) Estimated recruitment,
- 4) Habitat segregation of harvested alligators,
- 5) Length/weight regression analysis,
- 6) Evaluation of size class frequency distribution and sex ratios.

Future harvest strategies will be directed toward:

- 1) Evaluation of farm-released alligators, their survival, growth, maturation and contribution to recruitment into the wild population,
- 2) Continued evaluation of the relationship between reproductive rate and nest counts,
- 3) Development of models to facilitate understanding alligator population dynamics,
- 4) Determining survival rates between size classes.

The continuation of this harvest program will provide data necessary for the proper management of this important natural resource.

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Table 1. Bid prices by size class to be paid to the La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries - Marsh Island Fund for alligators harvested from Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge during 1998. Pelts and Skins, Inc. was the highest bidder.

Size Class	Price Per Foot
up to 4'11"	\$5.57
5'0" - 5'11"	\$9.89
6'0" - 6'11"	\$10.11
7'0" - 7'11"	\$10.99
≥ 8'0"	\$11.12

Table 2. Annual base alligator harvest quota and associated information for alligators harvested from 1986-1998 on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge. No harvest occurred in 1992 and 1994 and 1988 harvest was omitted due to cancellation of harvest after 2 days of hunting.

Year	Base Quota	Number Harvested	% of Tags Utilized	Season Length (days)	Average Alligator Length (feet)
1986	3000	2617	87.2	36	7.4 ¹
1987	1500	1008	67.2	23	6.2
1989	1000	847	84.7	17	6.0
1990	1000	853	85.3	16	5.7
1991	1000	758	75.8	11	5.9
1993	1000	872	87.2	9	5.8
1995	750	739 ²	98.5	5	6.1
1996	750	784 ³	100+ ³	4	5.8
1997	750	759 ⁴	100+ ⁴	5	5.9
1998	750	726	96.8	5	5.8

¹ Average length of all 2930 alligators harvested.

² The 11 tags not utilized were removed from the hunters possession due to a rules violation.

³ The 34 additional tags were issued for additional alligators taken on the last day of the harvest.

⁴ The 9 additional tags were issued for additional alligators taken on the last day of the harvest.

Table 3. Age ratios for alligators harvested by baited hook and line on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge from 1986-1998.

Year	Percent of Alligators	
	Adults ($\geq 6'$)	Immatures ($< 6'$)
1986	92	8
1987	55	45
1989	41	59
1990	40	60
1991	43	57
1993	41	59
1995	47	53
1996	37	63
1997	41	59
1998	40	60

Table 4. Total male and female alligators harvested on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge (1986-1998) and production rates of adult ($\geq 6'$) female alligators by year.

Year	Adults ($\geq 6'$)		Immatures ($< 6'$)		Nesting Rate (%) of $\geq 6'$ Females
	Males (%)	Females (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	
1986	1354 (56)	1074 (44)	323 (64)	178 (36)	26.2
1987 ¹	174 (32)	370 (68)	494 (69)	223 (31)	25.4
1988	16 (30)	37 (70)	81 (72)	32 (28)	16.2
1989 ²	123 (36)	222 (64)	337 (67)	164 (33)	25.3
1990 ³	202 (59)	143 (41)	288 (57)	218 (43)	10.3
1991	155 (47)	172 (53)	264 (61)	166 (39)	21.1
1993	220 (61)	141 (39)	254 (50)	257 (50)	31.5
1995	244 (71)	102 (29)	236 (60)	157 (40)	6.3
1996	188 (64)	105 (36)	238 (48)	253 (52)	5.9
1997 ⁴	212 (68)	101 (32)	230 (52)	215 (48)	5.9
1998	181 (62)	109 (38)	250 (57)	186 (43)	4.7
Totals					
1986-98	3069 (54)	2576 (46)	2995 (59)	2049 (41)	
1989-98	1525 (58)	1095 (42)	2097 (56)	1616 (44)	

¹ 1987 - 2 immature alligators unknown

² 1989 - 1 (4') alligator sex unknown

³ 1990 - 1 (4') alligator sex unknown

⁴ 1997 - 1 (9') alligator sex unknown

Table 5. Size class frequency distribution for all alligators harvested by the fishing method on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge, 1986-1998.

Size Class	<u>Percent of Alligators by Year¹</u>										
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1993	1995	1996	1997	1998
3'	< 1	6	6	3	11	3	8		< 1	<1	1
4'	1	29	37	20	21	27	19	11	16	17	20
5'	7	13	24	36	28	27	32	43	46	41	39
6'	24	20	13	17	25	21	24	26	26	28	26
7'	27	18	14	13	8	13	9	13	7	8	9
8'	13	7	2	7	4	7	6	5	3	3	3
9'	10	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
10'	13	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	< 1	<1	1
11'	5	2	1	1	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1			
12'	< 1	< 1									
Number Harvested	2617	1008	166	847	853	758	872	739	784	759	726

¹ Based on whole alligator lengths

Table 6. Number and production rates by size class for adult-sized female alligators harvested during 1998 on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge.

Size Class	Immature	Producers	Quiescent
6'	66 (81%)	3 (4%)	12 (15%)
7'	7 (32%)	2 (9%)	13 (59%)
≥ 8'	0	0	4 (100%)
Total	73 (68%)	5 (5%)	29 (27%)

Table 7. Estimated nest production, and adult female sample size and production rates on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge 1990-1998.

Year	Estimated Nest Production	Number of Females ($\geq 6'$) Sampled	Nesting Rate (%) of $\geq 6'$ Females
1990	410	49	10.3
1991	474	166	21.1
1992	403		
1993	261	130	31.5
1994	159		
1995	310	95	6.3
1996	149	101	5.9
1997	425	101	5.9
1998	280	107	4.7

Table 8. Number of recaptured alligators which make up the Marsh Island alligator harvest for 1990, 1991, 1993 and 1995-1998.

Year	# Harvested	# of Recaptures ¹	% of Harvest	# of Farm Alligators Available ²	# of Farm Alligators Harvested	% of Harvest	% of Farm Alligators Harvested
1990	853	58	6.8%	66	6	0.7%	9.1%
1991	758	115	15.2%	420	83	11.0%	19.8%
1993	872	262	30.0%	2266	208	23.9%	9.2%
1995	739	228	30.9%	2702	179	24.2%	6.6%
1996	784	213	27.2%	2949	183	23.3%	6.2%
1997	759	172	22.7%	3036	140	18.4%	4.6%
1998	726	117	16.1%	3050	77	10.6%	2.5%

¹ The total number of alligators which were previously marked, measured and released.

² These numbers were calculated using mortality from previous harvests only (losses to natural causes were not taken into account) and are representative of a maximum number of alligators which may be available.

Table 9. Farm released alligators (released on areas other than Marsh Island) harvested on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge (1995-1998).

Parish Released	Release Date	Harvest Date	Sex	Remarks	Release Length	Recapture Length
St. Mary	05/20/1992	07/07/1995	M	A (95164)	45	71
St. Mary	07/30/1992	07/07/1995	M	A (98701)	44	72
Iberia/St. Mary	05/20/1992	07/08/1995	M	A (94915)	45	75
St. Mary	08/13/1991	07/08/1995	M	B (50203)	46	78
St. Mary	08/13/1991	07/08/1995	M	B (53530)	46	84
St. Mary	08/19/1991	07/22/1996	M	B (80953)	43	65
Terrebonne	04/22/1992	07/22/1996	M	A (87999)	50	77
St. Mary	07/30/1992	07/23/1996	M	A (98468)	40	72
St. Mary	07/30/1992	07/24/1996	M	A (98505)	39	67
Terrebonne	08/19/1992	07/24/1996	M	A (108738)	60	82
St. Mary	05/19/1994	07/25/1996	M	AC (154088)	48	62
St. Mary	09/16/1992	07/08/1997	M	A (104189)	54	68
Vermilion	09/29/1993	07/08/1997	M	A (148414)	47	69
St. Mary	05/19/1994	07/09/1997	M	AC (154402)	48	70
St. Mary	08/13/1991	07/10/1997	M	B (53822)	46	99
St. Mary	07/30/1992	07/10/1997	M	A (98547)	44	86
Terrebonne	08/08/1994	07/11/1997	M	AC (894766)	56	73
Terrebonne	08/26/1994	07/11/1997	M	AC (896673)	53	71
Terrebonne	09/28/1992	07/14/1998	M	A (111944)	54	97
St. Mary	07/30/1992	07/15/1998	M	A (97790)	42	72
St. Mary	07/30/1992	07/14/1998	M	A (97794)	42	80
St. Mary	05/19/1994	07/13/1998	M	AC (154066)	52	74
St. Mary	05/19/1994	07/14/1998	M	AC (154203)	47	58
Terrebonne	04/15/1996	07/16/1998	M	AE (207245)	45	66
Terrebonne	07/29/1996	07/13/1998	M	AE (227204)	53	63

Figure 1. Data and calculations utilized to establish the harvest quota for the 1998 Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest Program.

CALCULATIONS FOR 1998 QUOTA

<u>Data</u>	<u>Source of Data</u>
15.9% nesting rate (1991, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997)	July 1991, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997 Marsh Island data
261 nests (1993-97 avg.)	1993-97 aerial nest surveys
Size class frequency distribution of harvested females	1986-97 Marsh Island data
Size class frequency distribution in Marsh Island harvests	1986-97 Marsh Island harvest data

The 1998 harvest quota is based upon the average nest density and the associated number of adult-size females within the population.

Calculations

1. If 15.9% of ≥ 6 feet females produced 261 nests; then $261 \div .159 = 1,642$ total females ≥ 6 feet in length.
2. $1,642 \times 20\%$ harvest rate on ≥ 6 feet females = 328 tags, for ≥ 6 feet females (Taylor and Neal 1984).
3. If ≥ 6 feet females = 25% of harvest (1986-97 data) then: $328 \div .25 = 1,312$ total tags.
4. Final quota = 750 tags (reduced for potential errors in data)

Figure 2. Map of Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge.

Figure 3. Receipt form utilized for the 1998 Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest Program.

OFFICIAL RECEIPT
1998 MARSH ISLAND
EXPERIMENTAL ALLIGATOR HARVEST

RECEIPT NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

	Hide Tag No.	Length Ft./In.	Weight	Sex	Web Tag	Mgt Unit	Hab Type	Remarks
1	9718							
2	9718							
3	9718							
4	9718							
5	9718							
6	9718							
7	9718							
8	9718							
9	9718							
10	9718							
11	9718							
12	9718							
13	9718							
14	9718							
15	9718							
16	9718							
17	9718							
18	9718							
19	9718							
20	9718							
21	9718							
22	9718							
23	9718							
24	9718							
25	9718							

SIGNED: _____

LA. DEPT. OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

PURCHASER

Appendix A

Marsh Island Alligator Population Status

May 1995

Marsh Island Alligator Population Status
May 1995

The Department initiated the experimental alligator harvest data-gathering program on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge in 1986 after conducting basic life history research during 1981-1985. Highlights of this research included night counts, tag and release, nest counts and a female reproductive study in 1985. This recently acquired Marsh Island information, data from previous research and past field observations formed the basis for the Department to plan the first experimental alligator harvest and data collection mission on Marsh Island in 1986. A base quota of 3,000 alligators was calculated for hook and line fishing and a supplemental quota of 500 alligators was established for evaluating shooting as a methodology for harvesting selected size alligators (4' and 5' class animals). A total of 2,617 alligators were harvested by the hook and line harvest technique (Table 1).

During 1986 alligators were harvested in April, May and July, a scheme which allowed us to determine that the reproductive status of adult female alligators could be most accurately assessed immediately post-nesting (July). Consequently, springtime reproductive data analysis tended to elevate the predicted reproductive rate, whereas July data projections more accurately estimated the reproductive rate in the adult segment of the population. We also determined that nest surveys conducted prior to 1986 were biased due to low sampling rates. These two vitally important information discoveries led us to conclude that we had overestimated the 1986 pre-hunt population of alligators on Marsh Island which in turn resulted in an overharvest of adult alligators. In Taylor et al. (1991), we critically examined the pre-hunt population estimates, the nest survey results, the

inaccuracies associated with assessing reproductive condition prior to nesting and concluded that an overharvest of adult females had occurred in 1986 (21.6%) and 1987 (15.8%). Although an actual percent reduction could not be calculated for the adult male segment of the population, the authors concluded "However, other measures of relative alligator abundance, such as night counts, harvest success, catch rate, and average size of alligators harvested, leads the authors to agree that the adult segment of the alligator population on Marsh Island had been significantly reduced by the 1986 harvest".

Table 1 summarizes various parameters for six annual harvests. During the last 4 harvests, 3,330 alligators have been harvested, which is an 83.2% tag utilization rate (varied from 75.8% in 1991 to 87.2% in 1993). This was accomplished during the very limited time frame allowed for each year's harvest (Table 1). Each successive harvest season on Marsh Island was progressively shorter, while tag utilization rate has remained relatively constant, indicating continued availability of alligators for harvest. By comparison, during the less intensive statewide harvest approximately 96% of all tags are utilized during a 30-day season (LDWF, Wild Alligator Harvest Statistics). During the statewide harvest, hunters receive approximately 15 harvest tags as compared to Marsh Island where hunters have received a minimum of 4 times as many tags to be utilized in a severely attenuated time frame. Obviously, if the Marsh Island season had been extended to 30 days each year, a higher tag utilization rate could have been achieved. However, tag utilization rate was not deemed to be a critical factor in determining annual termination date. The single most important factor which determined termination date was collection of adequate data to meet the specific objectives of that year's harvest.

During the last 4 harvest years average length of alligators harvested was 5.85 feet which has

remained consistent since 1989 (Table 1). On Salvador W.M.A., a similar intensive harvest of alligators was conducted from 1986-1990. Like Marsh Island, quotas were calculated utilizing data which included nesting rate, nest estimates, size class frequency distribution, sex ratios and a 20% harvest rate for the adult segment of the population (harvest rate of 1 tag per 36 acres). Average length of alligators harvested was 6.0 feet and consistent over 5 years of study (Kinler and Taylor 1992). During the study over 4,173 alligators were harvested from 30,000 acres of habitat, without any significant impact to the population. The average length of alligators harvested during these intensive harvest programs is consistently less than those produced during the statewide harvest (7.1') (LDWF, Wild Alligator Harvest Statistics). An important factor in assessing an impact, is consistency over time. In fact, one would expect that as harvest rates increase, the average size will decrease because the majority of the alligators present in any population are in the immature size classes (<6'). As harvest rates increase the smaller size classes must contribute more to the harvest than in a less intensive harvest regime.

The age ratio of harvested alligators on Marsh Island during 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1993 has also been consistent (Table 2). The age ratio averaged 41% adults to 59% immature during this time period. A similar age ratio was likewise noted for harvested alligators during the Salvador W.M.A. experimental harvest (44% adults, 56% immature). These ratios differed from the statewide age ratio (86% adults) (LDWF, Wild Alligator Harvest Statistics) which can be attributed to the high harvest allotments utilized in these intensive harvest programs. The consistency in age ratios of the most recent harvest years on Marsh Island is indicative of a stable population.

Sex ratios of harvested adult alligators have varied by year and by month within annual harvest periods. Due to the low number of alligators harvested in some of the individual harvest

periods, conclusive interpretation of sex ratio variation by individual harvest segment is difficult. Overall, sex ratio of all adults harvested since 1986 is approximately 50% males and 50% females. This 50:50 sex ratio of harvested adult alligators may more accurately reflect sex ratios in the wild population.

Throughout the entire time period of this harvest research program we have utilized all available pertinent data to establish annual harvest quotas. In 1987 the base quota was reduced to 1,500 alligators followed by a further reduction in all subsequent years to 1,000 alligators. Only a limited harvest was conducted in 1988, no harvest was conducted in 1992 and 1994 further reducing any possible impact that recent harvest years (1988 to present) could have had on the Marsh Island alligator population.

The 1995 harvest quota was calculated utilizing size class frequency distribution data from previous harvests, reproductive data from 1990, 1991 and 1993 and 5-year average nest count data. For each piece of information, we utilized the data determined to be most applicable to the current Marsh Island population. For instance, in the calculation of the statewide harvest rates, a 5-year moving average nest density provides a basis for a more stabilized quota determination. Nest counts can vary significantly from year to year due to changes in environmental conditions (salinity and water level) and other factors not completely understood. In the case of Marsh Island, below average nest production occurred in 1993 and 1994. This was however, consistent with nesting effort (approximate 50% reduction in 1993 and 1994) on the Paul J. Rainey Audubon National Wildlife Refuge where there is no adult alligator harvested, only a controlled egg harvest. This refuge is comprised of similar habitat and is located just west of Marsh Island. A similar decrease was also noted on other nearby private lands. Because of observed significant changes in annual nest

densities, which are not reflections of population level but rather a change in nesting effort, harvest quotas are calculated utilizing a 5-year average nest density.

Specific data utilized and subsequent quota calculations for the 1995 harvest are listed in Figure 1 of the 1995 harvest proposal. A careful analysis of data indicates the quota of 750 alligators (harvest rate of 1 alligator per 90 acres compared to statewide harvest quota of 1 alligator per 75 acres in high quality alligator habitat) should have no detrimental impact on any segment of the Marsh Island alligator population. This harvest will provide a significant contribution of information which will be utilized to further refine the state's alligator management program and has significant potential for adding to the database of the alligator egg collection program.

In summary, a review of harvest parameters (tag utilization rate, average length and age ratios) for Marsh Island indicates that all harvest statistics have remained stable during the most recent 4 harvest years (1989, 1990, 1991, 1993). As was demonstrated by Kinler and Taylor (1992) we expected average length to be smaller and age ratios to be skewed toward the immature sizes as compared to the statewide harvest statistics. Judgement of no significant impact is based on the fact that these parameters have been consistent since 1989.

The Department feels strongly that the alligator population on Marsh Island is stable and that the projected harvest for 1995 should have no detrimental impact on any segment of the Marsh Island alligator population.

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Table 1. Annual base alligator harvest quota and associated information for alligators harvested from 1986-1993 on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge. No harvest occurred in 1992 and 1994 and 1988 harvest was omitted due to cancellation of harvest after 3 days of hunting.

YEAR	BASE QUOTA	NUMBER HARVESTED	%OF TAGS UTILIZED	SEASON LENGTH (Days)	AVERAGE ALLIGATOR LENGTH (Feet)
1986	3000	2617	87.2	36	7.4 ¹
1987	1500	1008	67.2	23	6.2
1989	1000	847	84.7	17	6.0
1990	1000	853	85.3	16	5.7
1991	1000	758	75.8	11	5.9
1993	1000	872	87.2	9	5.8

¹ Average length of all 2930 alligators harvested.

Table 2. Ratio of adults to immatures for alligators harvested by baited hook and line on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge from 1986-1993.

YEAR	PERCENT	
	ADULTS ($\geq 6'$)	IMMATURES ($< 6'$)
1986	92	8
1987	55	45
1989	41	59
1990	40	60
1991	43	57
1993	41	59

1988 omitted (only 166 alligators harvested in 3 day season)

**1999 Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge Experimental
Alligator Harvest Proposal**

Submitted by

Noel Kinler

and

Lance Campbell

26 April 1999

1999 Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge Experimental Alligator Harvest Proposal

INTRODUCTION

The Department's alligator management activities on Marsh Island are based upon the Deed of Donation and the 1988 Memorandum of Understanding between the LDWF and the Russell Sage Foundation. The Deed of Donation specifically recognized the need to conduct studies of the animal life on the Refuge and provided for the harvest of both furbearers and alligators. Historically, nutria, muskrat, raccoon, river otter, mink and alligators were harvested within the framework of seasons established and administered through rules and regulations of the Department and or the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The 1988 MOU further clarified the context in which wildlife may be taken at Marsh Island and provided for the development and sale of by-products from the harvested wildlife. The MOU also established a notification and review process for Department's proposed activities.

Louisiana's current alligator management program dates back to 1972 when the Department reopened the season in Cameron Parish. The harvest was gradually expanded and in 1981 was opened statewide wherever there was sufficient habitat to support a reproducing alligator population. The Department has long been recognized for its alligator research and management activities on an international basis and the results of the Department's alligator research has influenced the development of Crocodilian management programs in many countries. Louisiana continues to lead the world with a wild harvest of 28,000+ alligators annually and an egg harvest of over 275,000 in 1998. The egg harvest program includes a requirement to return a specified portion of alligators raised in captivity to the wild to maintain the wild alligator population.

Marsh Island provides ideal habitat for alligators and provides an excellent setting for research activities. The Department initiated the alligator research program on Marsh Island in 1981 to establish a data base to estimate alligator abundance, determine distribution by habitat type and management units, and assess population dynamics, reproductive rates, growth rates and other population parameters. This data base was needed to learn more about the alligator population on Marsh Island, to determine the affect of various water management practices (weirs and impoundments) on the alligator population and to provide data that could improve our management of the statewide alligator population.

With the development of a series of specific objectives in 1986, the alligator research was expanded to include a harvest program. This harvest program has provided critical information regarding our knowledge of alligator biology and in particular, reproductive performance. As a result, an alligator population model was developed that now forms the basis for the Department's assessment of wild alligator harvest rates and for comparisons of survivability of wild versus farm released alligators. In addition, we are analyzing the distribution of harvested alligators by size and sex classes as it relates to water management schemes currently employed on Marsh Island. Nest surveys are also conducted annually on Marsh Island and these too are being assessed by water management units on the Refuge. Clearly, the harvest research program is consistent with recognized wildlife management principles and with the continued maintenance and/or enhancement of the wildlife habitat.

Each year the data from all previous harvest are reviewed, the specific objectives assessed, and the needs for research from the Marsh Island perspective as well as from a statewide perspective are reviewed and a revised set of specific objectives and a harvest quota are developed. For the 1999

harvest, the emphasis is placed on continuation of the assessment of growth, survival and sexual maturation of, and recruitment provided by farm released alligators. Other objectives include assessment of reproductive rates, nest production, size and sex ratios, and other population parameters. The issue of survival of farm released alligators is the most critical issue facing the Department today. The alligator research program on Marsh Island is providing a long term data set relative to alligator biology and management. We have maintained continuity in the overall harvest scheme, particularly in data collection and in establishment of objectives and harvest quotas. Additionally, the Department remains cognizant of the management needs of Marsh Island and will design and plan future harvest strategies to meet those needs as well as those of the state's alligator management program while meeting all requirements set forth in the Deed of Donation and the MOU.

During 1986-1998 a total of 10,694 alligators (57% males and 43% females) were harvested (Kinler 1991a, 1991b, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996a, 1996b), (Kinler and Campbell 1997a, 1997b, 1998a, 1998b, 1999), (Kinler et al. 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990a, 1990b). Of all adult ($\geq 6'$) alligators harvested, males comprised 54% and females 46%. In the immature ($< 6'$) size classes males comprised 59% while females contributed only 41%. As a group, adults comprised 53% of the total harvest. The size class frequency distribution of all alligators harvested by the baited hook and line harvest technique, from Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge is listed in Table 1.

Although a significant amount of information has been collected in previous years on sex ratios and reproductive rates, continued variation in sex ratios of harvested alligators and the importance of correlating reproductive rates with nest estimates, water levels and salinities and the evaluation of survival, growth and reproductive success of farm released alligators provides

justification for this harvest. Constant water level and salinity data are now being collected throughout the Refuge with 9 YSI 6000 recorders. Annual nesting effort of alligators is influenced by these variables throughout coastal Louisiana. Understanding the effect of environmental factors on nesting effort is necessary to determine population trends and to establish harvest quotas.

Over 4,147 farm-raised alligators have been released on Marsh Island since 1989. In the 1990 and 1991 season, 89 of these released alligators were captured. Data from these recaptured alligators contributed in part to Elsey et al.(1992b) which compared growth rates between wild and farm-raised released alligators. Additionally, these recaptured alligators contributed entirely to Elsey et al (1992a) which compared food habits between wild and farm-raised, released alligators. In the 1993 season, 208 of 2,266 farm released alligators were harvested; in the 1995 season, 179 were harvested from 2,702 farm released alligators potentially available; in the 1996 season, 183 of the 2,949 available farm released alligators were harvested; in the 1997 season, 140 of the 3,036 available farm released alligators were harvested; while in the 1998 season, 77 of the 3,050 available farm released alligators were harvested. In 1998, 5 farm released alligators were determined to have nested previously. Continued recovery of these released alligators plays an important role in the Department's evaluation of the egg collection program. The harvest in 1999 will provide an opportunity to recover additional farm released alligators. The following items will be evaluated relative to the harvest of these farm-released alligators:

- 1) Growth rates
- 2) Movement and dispersal
- 3) Survival rates
- 4) Reproductive success

- 5) Relative contribution of natural recruitment and farm released alligator recruitment to the harvest and to the Marsh Island alligator population.

Continuation of this harvest program, in the format described in this proposal, will provide information to the Department needed to make management decisions for the state's alligator program. The 1999 harvest is consistent with the Department's position outlined in a document entitled "Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge Experimental Alligator Harvest Program--Summary and Future Research and Management Strategies" which was submitted to the Russell Sage Foundation in June 1992 (Kinler 1992). This proposal details the objectives and procedures for the 1999 experimental harvest program on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To evaluate survival, growth rates, movement, and reproductive success of farm-raised alligators released into the wild.
- 2) To evaluate the relative contribution of natural recruitment and farm released alligator recruitment to the harvest and to the Marsh Island alligator population.
- 3) To collect reproductive data to determine the proportion of adult-sized females (≥ 6 feet) nesting annually. Also to determine reproductive rates as related to marsh management units on Marsh Island (weired marsh, natural marsh and impoundment).
- 4) To conduct intensive alligator nest counts to further establish the relationship between reproductive rate and nest production and to correlate nest counts with water level and salinity data.
- 5) To evaluate an alternate time of annual harvest with the intent of changing the sex

ratio in the harvest as ratios in summer harvested alligators.

- 6) To evaluate the accuracy of a calculated optimum harvest rate.

PROCEDURES

Harvest Quotas

Data collected from the 1986-98 experimental harvests were used to calculate a harvest quota for the 1999 harvest (Figure 1). Since the beginning of this harvest program all pertinent data has been used to estimate numbers of alligators present on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge and subsequently to calculate a harvest quota. Alligator nest count data from 1994-1998, production rate data from 1986-91 and 1993, and sex ratio and size class frequency distribution data from the 10,694 alligators harvested from Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge has been combined to calculate the 1999 quota. The 1999 quota is 750 alligators. These alligators will be harvested in July 1999.

Selection of Hunters

A total of 16 hunters and 5 alternates will be selected for the experimental harvest. Preference will be given to the individuals with previous trapping and/or alligator hunting experience on Marsh Island. Other hunters will be selected by screening applications , using the criteria listed below, and then drawing names.

- 1) Previous trapping and/or alligator hunting experience on Marsh Island Refuge.
- 2) Previous alligator hunting experience in Louisiana.
- 3) Ownership of essential equipment for alligator hunting on Marsh Island. Due to the location and topography of Marsh Island Refuge each hunter will need two boats.
 - a) Minimum 18' hull to cross the open water of Vermilion Bay on a daily basis.

- b) A small boat (small flat, mudboat, etc.) to hunt the interior bayous and ponds.
- 4) Each applicant will be required to report to the refuge each morning until his quota is filled (no exceptions allowed).
- 5) Ability to follow specific instructions issued by Department personnel.
- 6) Ability to maintain required records.
- 7) All applicants will be checked for past wildlife violations. Any applicant possessing a wildlife violation in the past 5 years will be rejected.

All hunters will be required to sign and abide by an alligator hunting contract.

Unit Assignments

Hunters will be assigned to specific units on Marsh Island. Assignment of hunting units will be done by a drawing. Hunting units will be distributed throughout the refuge so that hunting success, reproductive rates and size-class data can be evaluated by habitat types.

Harvest Date

The 1999 experimental harvest will be conducted in July. The harvest will continue on a daily basis until specified by Department officials. Assessment of economic feasibility for the Department, the purchaser, and the hunter will also be considered.

Harvest Methods

The base quota of 750 alligators will be harvested by the baited hook and line (fishing) method. The daily harvest quota for each hunter will be regulated as needed.

Sale of Alligators

As in previous years, these alligators will be sold to the highest bidder. Sale of these alligators will be advertised and bids solicited from alligator buyers and dealers.

Data Collection

All alligators will be brought to the refuge headquarters and loaded onto the transport boat.

The following data will be collected:

- 1) Alligator hide tag numbers
- 2) Length (feet and inches)
- 3) Sex and weight
- 4) Location where the alligator is captured
- 5) Obvious mutilations (i.e., cuts, bobtails, missing legs) will be recorded.
- 6) Web tag and tail notch information for marked alligators. Fur and Refuge Division personnel will collect and process all data from the 1999 harvest.

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Table 1. Size class frequency distribution for all alligators harvested by the fishing method on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge, 1986-1998.

Size Class	<u>Percent of Alligators by Year¹</u>										
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1993	1995	1996	1997	1998
3'	< 1	6	6	3	11	3	8		< 1	< 1	1
4'	1	29	37	20	21	27	19	11	16	17	20
5'	7	13	24	36	28	27	32	43	46	41	39
6'	24	20	13	17	25	21	24	26	26	28	26
7'	27	18	14	13	8	13	9	13	7	8	9
8'	13	7	2	7	4	7	6	5	3	3	3
9'	10	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
10'	13	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	< 1	< 1	1
11'	5	2	1	1	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1			
12'	< 1	< 1									
Number Harvested	2617	1008	166	847	853	758	872	739	784	759	726

¹ Based on whole alligator lengths

Figure 1. Data and calculations utilized to establish the harvest quota for the 1999 Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest Program.

CALCULATIONS FOR 1999 QUOTA

<u>Data</u>	<u>Source of Data</u>
24.7% nesting rate (1986-91, 1993)	July 1986-91, 1993 Marsh Island data
279 nests (1994-98 avg.)	1994-98 aerial nest surveys
Size class frequency distribution of harvested females	1986-98 Marsh Island data
Size class frequency distribution in Marsh Island harvests	1986-98 Marsh Island harvest data

The 1999 harvest quota is based upon the average nest density and the associated number of adult-size females within the population.

Calculations

1. If 24.7% of ≥ 6 feet females produced 279 nests; then $279 \div .247 = 1,130$ total females ≥ 6 feet in length.
2. $1,130 \times 20\%$ harvest rate on ≥ 6 feet females = 226 tags, for ≥ 6 feet females (Taylor and Neal 1984).
3. If ≥ 6 feet females = 24.1% of harvest (1986-98 data) then: $226 \div .241 = 938$ total tags.
4. Final quota = 750 tags (reduced for potential errors in data)

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT

MAY, 1999

185-Amph. - 61092
Hrs. 47.0

185-Float - 9667Q
Hrs. - 45.4

210 - 9467Y
Hrs. - 22.0

Enforcement Hours -106.5

Other Divisions - 7.9

Total Plane Use - 114.4

Cases Made in Conjunction with Aircraft Use Resulted in Citations issued for:

2 - Unattended Nets

2 - Undersize Crabs

2 - No Vessel License

2 - No Commercial License

2 - No Gear License

10- Total Cases

Confiscations:

2,000 Pounds of Shrimp, 4 Butterfly Nets, 8 Boxes of Crabs

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

MAY 1999

REGION 1:

**PARISHES: BIENVILLE, BOSSIER,
CADDO, CLAIBORNE,
DESOTO, RED RIVER,
WEBSTER**

TOTAL CASES	181	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	1
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
67	Boating
51	Angling W/O A License
12	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident
46	Fish W/O Resident Pole License
1	Take Undersize Freshwater Game Fish
2	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
1	Operate Vehicle While Intoxicated

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL 125	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
84	Boating Safety
38	Angling W/O A License
1	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident
1	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License
1	Take Over Limit Freshwater Game Fish

1	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
4 black bass; 1 15hp o/b motor	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 1

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
67	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
1	Miscellaneous
112	Recreational Fishing
1	State Hunting/Trapping
0	WMA Rules and Regulations
125	Warning Citations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
1	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
1	Bodcau

REGION 2:

**PARISHES: E. CARROL, JACKSON,
LINCOLN, MOREHEAD,
QUACHITA, RICHLAND
UNION, W. CARROL**

TOTAL CASES	161	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	4
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
92	Boating
20	Angling W/O A License
5	Angling W/O A Non-resident License
13	Fish W/O Resident Pole License
5	Take Game Fish By Illegal Method
1	Take Game Fish Illegally
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Criminal Damage To Property
2	D W I (Water Craft)
1	Resist Arrest
1	Careless Operation Of Motor Vehicle
7	Possession Of Alcohol By A Person Under 21 Years Of Age
1	Obstruction Of Justice
1	Illegal Parking (On WMA Road)
2	Disturbing The Peace

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Aggravated Assault
6	Littering

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL 78	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
5	No PFD On Person Under 13 While Underway
6	No Observer In Watercraft While Skiing
2	Not Abiding By Rules and Regulations On WMA
4	Angle W/O A Non Resident License
1	Allow Person Under Age 13 To Operate PWC
1	Expired Boat Registration Certificate
1	Improper Riding Gunnel
3	No Boat Numbers
18	Angling W/O License
12	Failure To Comply With PFD Requirements
3	Operate Unregistered Boat
4	No Fire Extinguisher
2	No Boat Decal
16	No Boat Registration In Possession

78	Warning Citations
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TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
28	Public Assistance (Assisting Stranded Motorist and Boaters)

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
1	Russell Sage WMA
3	Ouachita WMA

REGION 3:

**PARISHES: AVOYELLES, GRANT,
NATCHITOCHEs, RAPIDES
SABINE, VERNON, WINN**

TOTAL CASES	177	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	7
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
60	Boating
57	Angling W/O A License
3	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
3	Possess Undersize Freshwater Game Fish
25	Littering
19	Criminal Trespass On State Property
2	Illegal Possession Of Marijuana
1	Resisting An Officer
1	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated
1	Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle
1	D.W.I. – Second Offense
1	Improper Lane Usage
1	Battery On Law Enforcement Officer
2	Possession Live Wild Quadrupeds

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL 109	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
57	Boating
7	Fail To Abide By Rules And Regulations
1	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License
3	Take Or Possess Illegal Size Black Bass
35	Angling W/O A License
2	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
4	Possess Illegal Size Freshwater Game Fish

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
17 beer cans, 3 beer bottles, 3 Cola Cans, 4 marijuana cigarettes, 1 shiner bag, 1 cardboard box, 4 black bass, 2 raccoons, 3 squirrels.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
60	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
25	Littering
27	Miscellaneous
63	Recreational Fishing
2	State Hunting/Trapping
0	WMA Rules and Regulations
109	Warning Citations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
7	Alexander State Forest

REGION4:

**PARISHES: CALDWELL, CATAHOULA,
CONCORDIA, FRANKLIN
LASALLE, MADISON,
TENSAS**

TOTAL CASES	164	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	8
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
76	Boating
38	Angling W/O A License
21	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
22	Fishing W/O Resident Pole License
1	Not Abiding By Commission Rules (Rec.) Finfish (Took Slot Limit Bass)
1	Blocking Passage Of Fish
3	Frog In Closed Season
1	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations On WMA
1	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL 7	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
3	Angling W/O A License
4	Boating

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
1 frog, 1 bass	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
76	Boating
1	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
1	Miscellaneous
82	Recreational Fishing
3	State Hunting/Trapping
1	WMA Rules and Regulations

7	Warning Citations
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TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
0	Big Lake WMA
3	Boeuf River WMA
0	Buckhorn WMA
3	Dewey Wills WMA
1	Red River WMA
0	Sicily Island WMA
1	Three Rivers WMA

REGIONS:

PARISHES: ACADIA, ALLEN,
BEAUREGARD, CALCASIEU
CAMERON, EVANGELINE
JEFF DAVIS, VERMILLION

TOTAL CASES	378	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	66
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
128	Boating
39	Angling W/O A License
12	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
1	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License
1	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License Non-Resident
1	Angling W/O Saltwater License
2	Take Or Possess Undersize Blackdrum
2	Angling W/O Saltwater License Non-Resident
1	Fail To Comply With Charter Boat Regulation
3	Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License
3	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License
4	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
1	Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
1	Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Retail Seafood License
3	Fail To Maintain Records

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Transport W/O Required License
4	Take Commercial Fish With Non-Approved Devices
4	Illegal Use Of Monofilament
4	Use Saltwater Net Illegally
4	Take Saltwater Commercial Fish With Net Closed Season
1	Allow Another To Use Commercial License
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Gear License
2	Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs
1	Fail To Remove Vessel Or Other Equipment
1	Failure To Display Proper Number On Vessel
48	Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly
1	Buying Or Selling For Resale Untagged Oysters
2	Fail To Maintain Required Records Of All Alligator Transactions
47	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On Wildlife Management Area
5	Littering
8	Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries
2	Conspiracy
32	Violation Of Sanitary Code – Chapter 9 Fail To Refrigerate Properly
2	Adulterated Or Misbranded Seafood

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Filing False Public Records
4	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL 95	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
11	Angling W/O A Residential License
68	Boating
13	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On Wildlife Management Area
3	Use Wildlife Management Area W/O License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
174 pounds of shrimp sold for \$115.75, 1 – ice chest, 2 – non-residential charter boat license, 1 – 40' trawl, 1 – commercial license, 1 – trawl gear license, 5 – blackdrum (RTW), 1 – can of beer, 2 – gill nets, 64 – speckled trout, 103 dozen 1 crabs, 1 – invoice, 1 – sack oysters, 3 quarts – shucked oysters, 1440 pounds – alleged alligator meat, 2356 pounds – alleged turtle meat	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
128	Boating
87	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
5	Littering
50	Miscellaneous
59	Recreational Fishing
2	State Hunting/Trapping
47	WMA Rules and Regulations

95	Warning Citations
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TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
56	Rockefeller Refuge
7	Sabine Island Wildlife Management Area
0	State Wildlife Refuge
1	West Bay Wildlife Management
0	Marshy Bayou
2	Marsh Island

REGION6:

**PARISHES: IBERIA, IBERVILLE,
LAFAYETTE, PT.COUPÉE
ST.LANDRY, W.B.ROUGE**

TOTAL CASES	167	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	0
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
106	Boating
3	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated
4	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License
3	Littering
32	Angling W/O License
5	Trawl State Waters – Closed Season
1	Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
4	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
3	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License
1	Operate ATV On Public Road
1	Flight From An Officer
1	Angling W/O Non-Resident License
2	Fish W/O Resident Pole License

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL 45	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
36	Boating
9	Angling W/O License

45	Warning Citations
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TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
0	Thistlethwaite Wildlife Management Area
0	Sherburne Wildlife Management Area
0	Attakapas Wildlife Management Area

REGION 7:

**PARISHES: ASCENSION, E.B. ROUGE,
E. FELICIANA, LIVINGSTON,
ST. HELENA, ST. TAMMANY,
TANGIPAHOA, WASHINGTON,
W. FELICIANA**

TOTAL CASES	302	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	3
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
186	Boating (8 DWI's)
75	Angling W/O A License
18	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
7	Angling W/O A Pole License
1	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License
1	Angling W/O A Resident Saltwater License
1	Angling W/O A Non-Resident Saltwater License
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial License
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial Gear License
1	Scenic River Violation
1	Poss. Undersize Speckled Trout
2	Littering
1	Failure To Have Commercial License In Possession
1	Poss. Saltwater Fish W/O License
1	Take Undersize Redfish

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
1	Take Undersize Speckled Trout
1	Use Crab Trap W/O Recreational Gear License

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL 88	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
64	Boating
15	Angling W/O A License
6	Angling W/O A Resident Saltwater License
2	Angling W/O A Non-Resident Saltwater License
1	Angling W/O A Pole License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
7	Speckled Trout ,One-half Basket of Crabs.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
186	Boating
5	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
1	Miscellaneous
108	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	WMA Rules and Regulations

88	Warning Citations
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TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
3	Pearl River WMA

REGION 8:

**PARISHES: JEFFERSON, ORLEANS,
PLAQUEMINE, ST. BERNARD,
ST. CHARLES**

TOTAL CASES	175	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	13
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
13	Boating
35	Angling W/O A License
7	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
2	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License
5	Angling W/O A Saltwater License
4	Angling W/O A Non-Resident Saltwater License
1	Take/Possess Over The Limit Of Freshwater Gamefish (Channel Cat)
3	Take/Possess Over The Limit Of Red Drum
2	Take/Possess Undersized Red Drum
4	Take/Possess Undersized Spotted Sea Trout
2	Take/Possess Over The Limit Spotted Sea Trout
1	Take/Possess Undersized Black Drum
1	Fail To Comply With Charter Boat Regulations
2	Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regulations For Commercial Finfish(Take Shark In Closed Season)
1	Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
5	Take/Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
6	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
5	Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Vessel License
4	Sell/Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
8	Fail To Maintain Records
2	Use Saltwater Gill Net Illegally
4	Take/Possess Undersize Commercial Finfish (Catfish)
2	Sell And/Or Purchase Gamefish
8	Buy Commercial Fish From Unlicensed Fisherman
2	Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings
1	Destroy Legal Crab Traps Or Remove Contents
1	Sell Fish W/O a License
1	Allow Another To Use Commercial License
2	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Commercial Vessel License
2	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Commercial Gear License
2	Fail Top Comply With Spotted Sea Trout Closure
1	Fail To Comply With Shark Permit And Reports
2	Fail To Report Data
2	Trawl In Restricted Area
9	Use Skimmers In Closed season

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
4	Failure To Have Written Permission
2	Take Oysters From Polluted Area
1	Resisting An Officer
1	Simple Assault On An Officer
1	Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated
4	Littering
3	Violate No Wake Zone
1	Public Intimidation
1	Flight From An Officer
5	Violation of Sanitary code-Chapter 9-Vessel Regulations

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL 48	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
16	Angling W/O A License
5	Angling W/O A Non-resident License
27	Boating

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
Seafood destroyed:---sharks---5: Seafood returned to water: oysters---8 sacks:----crabs---150 lbs.:----red drum---3: Seafood Donated: ---shrimp---28 lbs.:---Spotted sea trout---104:---red drum---36:---black drum---9:--- grey snapper-----9:---white trout---7:---flounder---10:---catfish---428:----- Seafood sold at bid: ---30,000 lbs. menhaden sold for \$900.00:-----2,996 lbs. of shrimp sold for \$8377.60:----- 350 lbs. catfish sold for \$ 54.00, 4 trawls, 8 skimmer nets, 2 crab traps, 1 ice chest, 1 resident gear license, 1 resident commercial fisherman license.	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
13	Boating
82	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
4	Littering
8	Miscellaneous
68	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	WMA Rules and Regulations

48	Warning Citations
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TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
16	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
9	Pas a Loutre
4	Salvador

REGION 9:

**PARISHES: ASSUMPTION, LAFOURCHE,
ST. JAMES, ST. JOHN,
ST. MARTIN, ST. MARY,
TERREBONNE**

TOTAL CASES	363	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	33
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
199	Boating
49	Angling W/O A License
9	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident
8	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License
3	Angling W/O Saltwater License
1	Angling W/O Saltwater License Non-Resident
1	Possess Over 10 Red Drum (Off Water)
5	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
6	Take Undersized Red Drum
5	Take Undersized Spotted Sea Trout (Rec.)
7	Take Undersized Black Drum (Rec.)
4	Take O/L Black Drum (Rec.)
9	Take Fish W/O Commercial License
3	Take Commercial Fish W/O Gear License (Crawfish Trap)
3	Take Commercial Fish W/O Gear License (Skimmer Nets)

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
3	Take Commercial Fish W/O Gear License (Trawl)
5	Take Commercial Fish W/O Gear License (Butterfly Nets)
7	Take Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
4	Fail To Maintain Records
2	Leave Nets Unattended
1	Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings
2	Remove Contents Of Crab Traps
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Vessel License
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Gear License
2	Fail To Report Commercial Fisheries Data
1	Theft Of Crab Trap
3	Possess Over 20 % Undersize Crabs
7	Use Skimmers In Closed Season
2	Use Oversized Skimmer Nets
2	Fail To Pay Severance Tax (Shrimp)
1	Harvest Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester License
2	Possess Firearm While Frogging
3	WMA
2	Littering

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL 67	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
57	Boating
1	Angling W/O A License
9	Angling W/O Saltwater License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
4047 lbs. shrimp sold \$3718.75, 185 lbs. shrimp, 1440 lbs. crabs sold \$1521.05, 1400 lbs. crabs, 21 red drum, 1 largemouth bass, 52 black drum, 5 black bass, 13 sacks crawfish, 9 speckle trout, 10 sacks oysters, 4 boats, 10 skimmer nets, 8 butterfly nets, 5 crab traps, 1 rod & reel, 38 trip tickets, 7 purchase record booklets, 4 sales record booklets, 1 purchase receipt,

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
199	Boating
59	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
98	Recreational Fishing
2	State Hunting/Trapping
3	WMA Rules and Regulations
67	Warning Citations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
14	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
21	Pointe Aux Chenes
9	Atchafalaya Delta
3	Pass Manchac

STATEWIDE STRIKE FORCE

STATEWIDE

TOTAL CASES	113	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	3
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
35	Boating
45	Angling W/O A License
2	Angling W/O A License (Non-Resident)
1	Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License
3	Angling W/O A Saltwater License
1	Angling W/O A Saltwater License (Non-Resident)
1	Take/Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
2	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
2	Butterflying In Closed Season
3	Use Skimmers In Closed Season
10	Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season
3	Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA
3	Lacy Act
1	Obtain License By Fraud

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL	39	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
10		Angling W/O A License
2		No Boat Numbers
3		Operate Unregistered Motorboat
4		Fail To Display Valid Certificate Decal
3		Improper Boat Numbers
1		Improper Running Lights
11		Fail To Comply With P.F. D. Requirements
1		Fail to Have P.F.D. On Person Under 13 While Underway
3		Improper Or No Fire Extinguisher
1		Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
1,550 lbs. of shrimp sold for \$1,125.00. 7 spotted seatrout, 1 box crabs, 1 deer head, 2-18 wheelers seized on paper.	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR STATEWIDE STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
35	Boating
8	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
4	Miscellaneous
53	Recreational Fishing
10	State Hunting/Trapping
3	WMA Rules and Regulations
39	Warning Citations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
3	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
1	Pointe-Aux-Chene
2	Ouachita

S.W.E.P.

STATEWIDE

TOTAL CASES	25	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	0
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
5	Boating
2	No Commercial License
2	No Vessel License
2	No Commercial Gear License
1	No Commercial License In Possession
1	Allow Another To Use Commercial License
1	Allow Unlicensed Person To Use Vessel License
4	Used Skimmer Closed Season
1	Take Undersize Red Drum
3	Take Undersize Black Drum
3	Angling W/O A License

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
0	

ENGINE HOURS: 200
BOATS CHECKED: 189

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE**STATEWIDE**

TOTAL CASES	68	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	0
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
3	Boating
44	Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags With Correct Information
1	Failure To Tag Oysters Before Leaving The State
3	Conspiracy To Violate the Lacey Act
12	Angling W/O A Basic License
1	Fishing W/O A Saltwater License
1	Take Undersize Red Drum
1	Take Undersize Spotted Sea Trout
1	Failure To Properly Attend Butterfly Nets
1	Failure to Possess Commercial Gear License To Take Shrimp

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
3 spotted sea trout, 2 red drum, two 22 foot long butterfly nets.	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
3	Boating
50	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
15	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	WMA Rules and Regulations

0	Warning Citations
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TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
0	

SEAFOOD INVESTIGATION UNIT**STATEWIDE**

TOTAL CASES	25	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES	0
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TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	Boating
1	Angling W/O A License
3	Angling W/O A Saltwater License
1	Fail To Have Fish Intact (Saltwater)
3	Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
1	Retail Dealer, Restaurant Grocer Buy Fish From Other Than Wholesale Retail Dealer
5	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Transport W/O Required License
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Vessel License
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Gear License
1	Fail To Report Commercial Fisheries Data
2	Trawling In Closed Season
2	Fail To Pay Severance Tax
1	Theft
1	Injuring Public Records
1	Filing False Public Records

WARNING CITATIONS:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1 trawl, 1 bag trout, 6 speckled trout.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Boating
17	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
3	Miscellaneous

5	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	WMA Rules and Regulations
0	Warning Citations

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

TOTAL	NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA
0	

TOTAL CASES WMA AND REFUGES -135

TOTAL WRITTEN WARNING CASES -662

TOTAL CASES -2068

Gobblers Recorded At Voluntary Check Stations

1989 - 1999

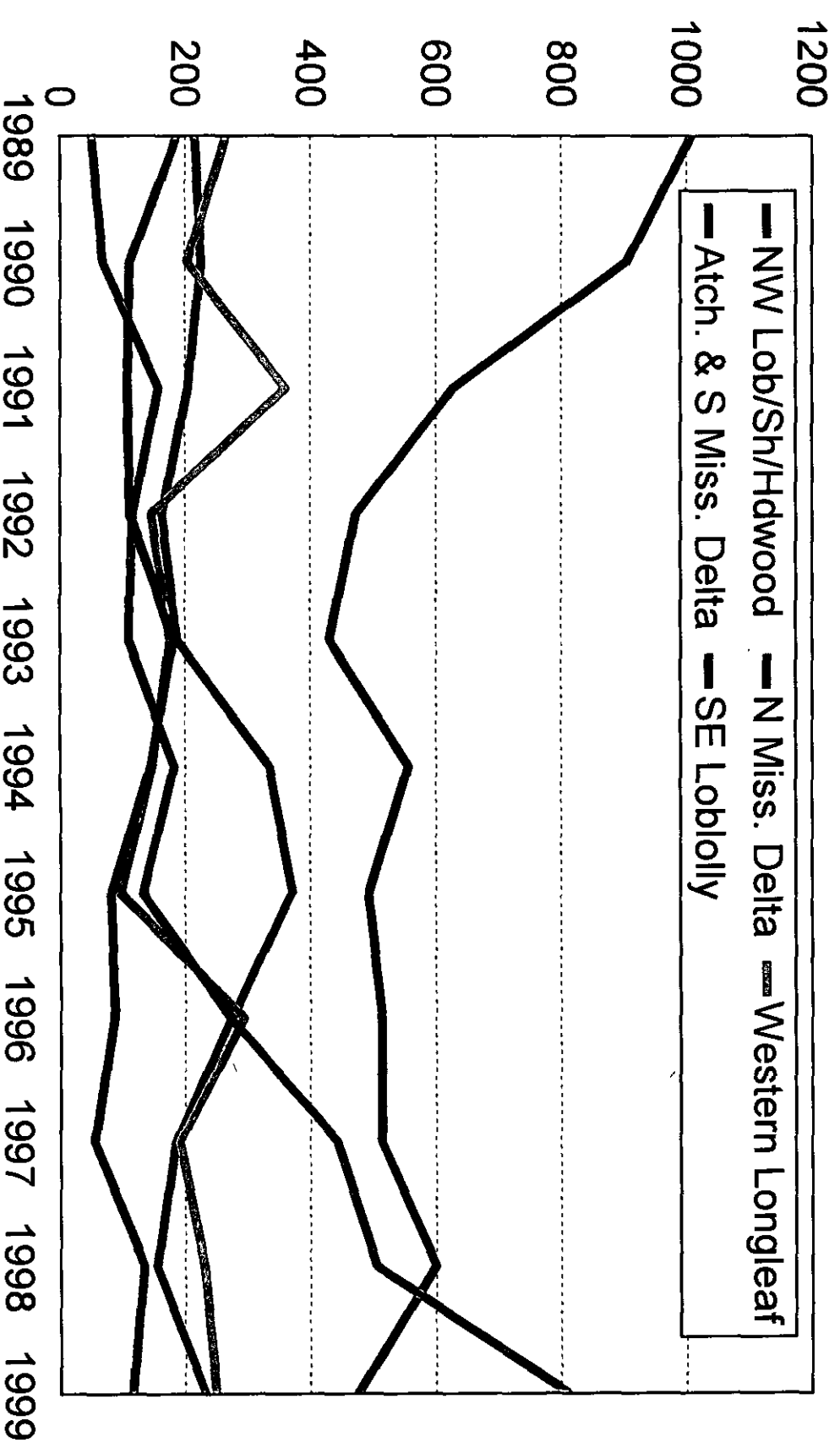


Figure 2

1999 Turkey Harvest Update

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has operated voluntary turkey check stations for 12 years. The number of turkeys checked at these stations during 1999 was the highest ever recorded. A total of 1,891 birds were recorded for 1999; this was an increase of 10 % from 1998. The number of adults turkeys reported was 1,467 (78%), while the number of juveniles recorded was 424 (22%). Since 1988, the yearly average has been 1,415 turkeys reported.

In 1999, turkeys were reported harvested from 42 parishes, 57% of the parishes showed an increase, 33% showed a decrease, and 10 % remained the same (Table 1). Regions 1,2,3 and 6 showed an increase while Regions 4,5 and 7 indicated a decrease (Table 2). Comparison of the harvest by historical habitat/geological regions (Figures 1), reveals that the Northwest Loblolly/Shortleaf/Hardwood, Western Longleaf Pine, Atchafalaya and the South Mississippi Delta recorded increases from 1998. Only the North Mississippi Delta and Southeast Loblolly regions showed a decrease (Figure 2 and Table 3).

Although an early spring caused the turkeys to begin gobbling in late February, and a week-later than usual opening day in Area A caused early concern for hunters in that region, at the end of the season most hunters were pleased with the number of birds heard and harvested.

The final statewide harvest estimate will not be available until the 2000 Harvest Survey is received and its data compiled. A conservative estimate of total harvest at this time is between 6000-7000 turkeys. With continued sound wildlife management practices and good years of reproduction, the Department hopes for continued increases in turkey populations and associated recreational opportunities.

Table 1. Reported Spring turkey harvest at "voluntary" weigh stations in Louisiana 1988-1999

PARISH	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
ALLEN	7	1	3	0	5	2	1	4	7	0	0	3
ASCENSION	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	3
ASSUMPTION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AVOYELLES	0	0	14	46	20	39	79	24	20	Closed	22	35
BEAUREGARD	18	13	12	5	6	1	9	4	1	1	9	7
BIENVILLE	25	21	15	11	20	31	59	36	37	78	55	112
BOSSIER	0	2	3	83	45	18	14	5	48	48	32	61
CADDO	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
CALCASIEU	6	7	1	5	6	1	9	4	1	1	2	2
CALDWELL	8	8	21	5	1	6	13	9	4	9	12	12
CATAHOULA	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	20
CLAIRBORNE	9	7	22	27	32	35	19	36	33	51	93	123
CONCORDIA	0	0	1	0	44	86	71	29	42	0	62	43
DESOTO	0	0	0	1	4	3	1	1	1	8	4	13
E. BATON ROUGE	26	28	32	4	5	11	34	17	12	17	9	5
E. CARROLL	40	71	33	35	19	29	29	26	9	Closed	0	0

PARISH

1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999

E. FELICIANA	165	210	86	52	15	28	48	46	39	40	39	51
EVANGELINE	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRANKLIN	8	1	1	1	3	2	5	4	0	6	1	1
GRANT	28	32	16	41	25	21	37	27	25	34	51	52
IBERVILLE	32	66	45	46	55	29	72	140	120	103	66	80
JACKSON	8	9	4	4	1	5	0	0	31	37	32	128
JEFF DAVIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LASALLE	6	4	4	4	2	2	7	2	10	18	21	30
LINCOLN	0	2	1	2	0	31	27	23	49	62	54	116
LIVINGSTON	42	190	165	69	68	35	82	82	95	104	131	62
MADISON	28	37	25	29	20	18	13	5	6	8	12	8
MOREHOUSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	19	25	19
NATCHITOCHES	35	17	34	35	35	28	32	19	30	42	44	76
OUACHITA	6	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
POINTE COUPEE	27	29	37	27	24	43	47	45	28	19	29	41
RAPIDES	101	88	55	44	28	22	28	18	14	42	48	36
RED RIVER	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	5	0	2

RICHLAND	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SABINE	5	2	9	2	1	2	0	0	0	15	11	17	27	
ST. HELENA	228	163	158	116	92	72	83	74	68	75	93	77		
ST. LANDRY	26	34	30	10	10	18	25	12	13	10	4	28		
ST. MARTIN	8	2	12	17	21	21	36	93	44	30	4	24		
ST. TAMMANY	42	62	25	40	37	22	31	0	26	18	32	34		
TANGIPAHOA	94	104	74	62	65	36	48	42	37	29	35	33		
TENSAS	21	75	44	42	26	47	28	19	18	23	22	22		
UNION	0	0	0	0	0	11	7	12	45	104	179	186		
VERNON	110	103	72	81	46	91	41	27	37	56	61	48		
WASHINGTON	120	129	134	138	86	125	137	117	171	170	209	163		
WEBSTER	0	0	0	21	11	5	56	8	13	23	23	26		
W. BATON ROUGE	89	86	89	60	34	38	77	58	51	22	24	23		
W. FELICIANA	140	213	231	148	105	102	94	116	67	61	53	52		
WINN	4	4	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	Closed	0	0		
TOTALS	1514	1720	1520	1317	1013	1127	1391	1179	1279	1395	1631	1891		

Table 2. Turkey harvest reported in Louisiana during the 1999 hunting season at voluntary weigh stations by LDWF Regions.

Parish	Harvest	Adults (%)	Juvenile (%)
REGION 1			
Caddo	3	1 (33%)	2 (67%)
Bossier	61	46 (75%)	15 (25%)
Webster	26	23 (88%)	3 (12%)
DeSoto	13	12 (92%)	1 (8%)
Red River	2	2 (100%)	0
Bienville	112	95 (85%)	17 (15%)
Claiborne	123	94 (76%)	29 (24%)
Total	340	273 (80%)	67 (20%)
REGION 2			
E. Carroll	closed		
Lincoln	116	73 (63%)	43 (37%)
Ouchita	4	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Union	186	128 (69%)	58 (31%)
Morehouse		19 (21%)	15 (79%) 4
Jackson	128	92 (72%)	36 (28%)
Total	453	311 (69%)	142 (31%)
REGION 3			
Grant	52	41 (79%)	11 (21%)
Natchitoches	76	52 (68%)	24 (32%)
Rapides	36	28 (78%)	8 (22%)
Sabine	27	24 (89%)	3 (11%)
LaSalle	30	25 (83%)	5 (17%)
Total	221	170 (77%)	51 (23%)
REGION 4			
Caldwell	12	12 (100%)	0 (0%)
Catahoula	20	17 (85%)	3 (15%)
Concordia	43	20 (47%)	23 (53%)
Franklin	1	1 (100%)	0
Madison	8	5 (63%)	3 (37%)
Tensas	22	17 (77%)	5 (23%)
Total	106	72 (68%)	34 (32%)

(Con't. Page 2)

Parish	Harvest	Adults (%)	Juvenile (%)
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REGION 5

Allen	3	2 (67%)	1 (33%)
Beauregard	7	6 (86%)	1 (14%)
Vernon	48	38 (79%)	10 (21%)
Calcasieu	2	2 (100%)	0
Total	60	48 (80%)	12 (20%)

REGION 6

Avoyelles	35	21 (60%)	14 (40%)
Iberville	80	61 (76%)	19 (24%)
Point Coupee	41	35 (85%)	6 (15%)
St. Landry	28	18 (64%)	10 (36%)
St. Martin	24	15 (63%)	9 (37%)
W. Baton Rouge	23	18 (78%)	5 (22%)
Total	231	168 (73%)	63 (27%)

REGION 7

Ascension	3	3 (100%)	0
E. Baton Rouge	5	4 (80%)	1 (20%)
E. Feliciana	51	43 (84%)	8 (16%)
W. Feliciana	52	42 (81%)	10 (9%)
Livingston	62	56 (90%)	6 (10%)
St. Helena	77	68 (88%)	9 (12%)
St. Tammany	34	31 (91%)	3 (9%)
Tangipahoa	33	27 (82%)	6 (18%)
Washington	163	151 (93%)	12 (7%)
Total	480	425 (89%)	55 (11%)

STATEWIDE TOTALS

TOTAL HARVEST CHECKED	ADULTS (%)	JUVENILE (%)
1891	1467 (78%)	424 (22%)

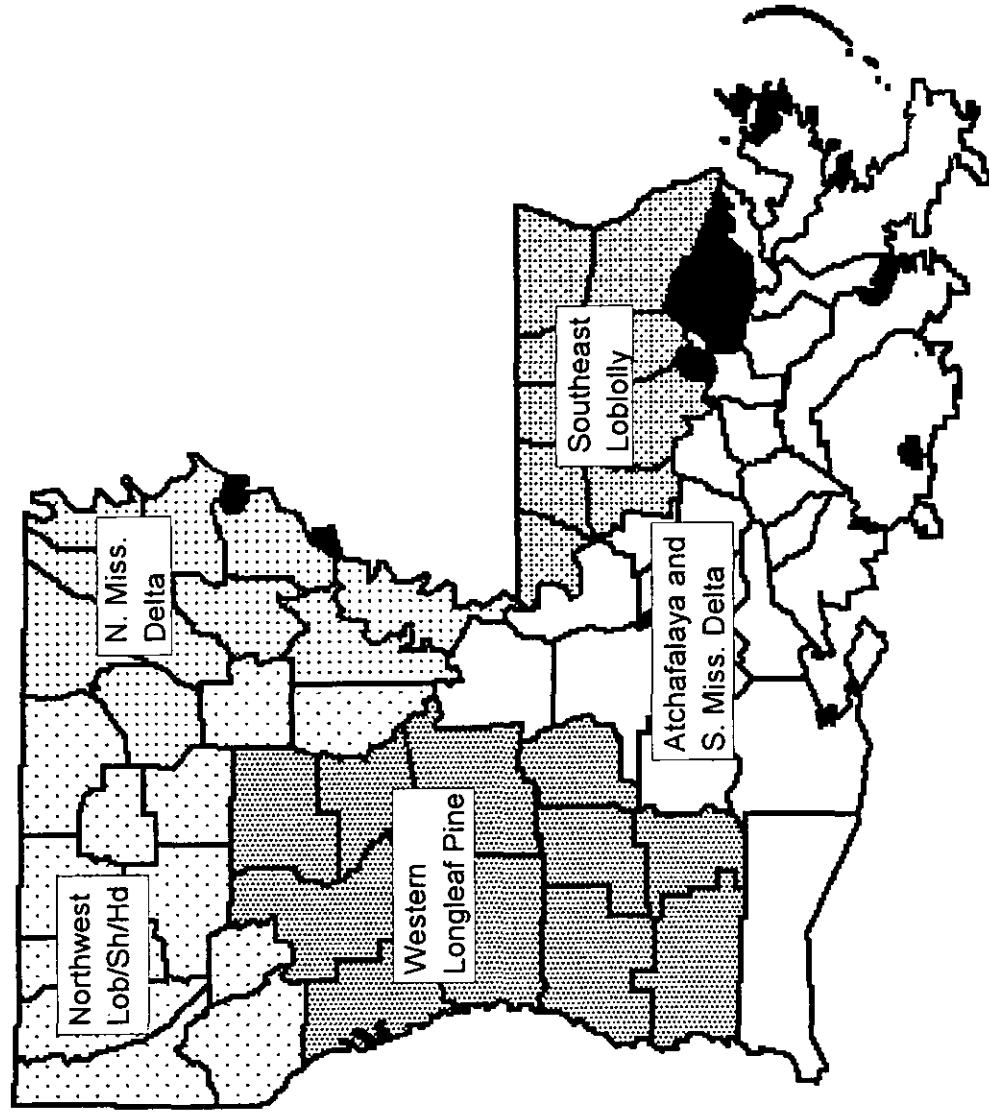


Figure 1

Gobblers Recorded At Voluntary Check Stations

1989 -1999

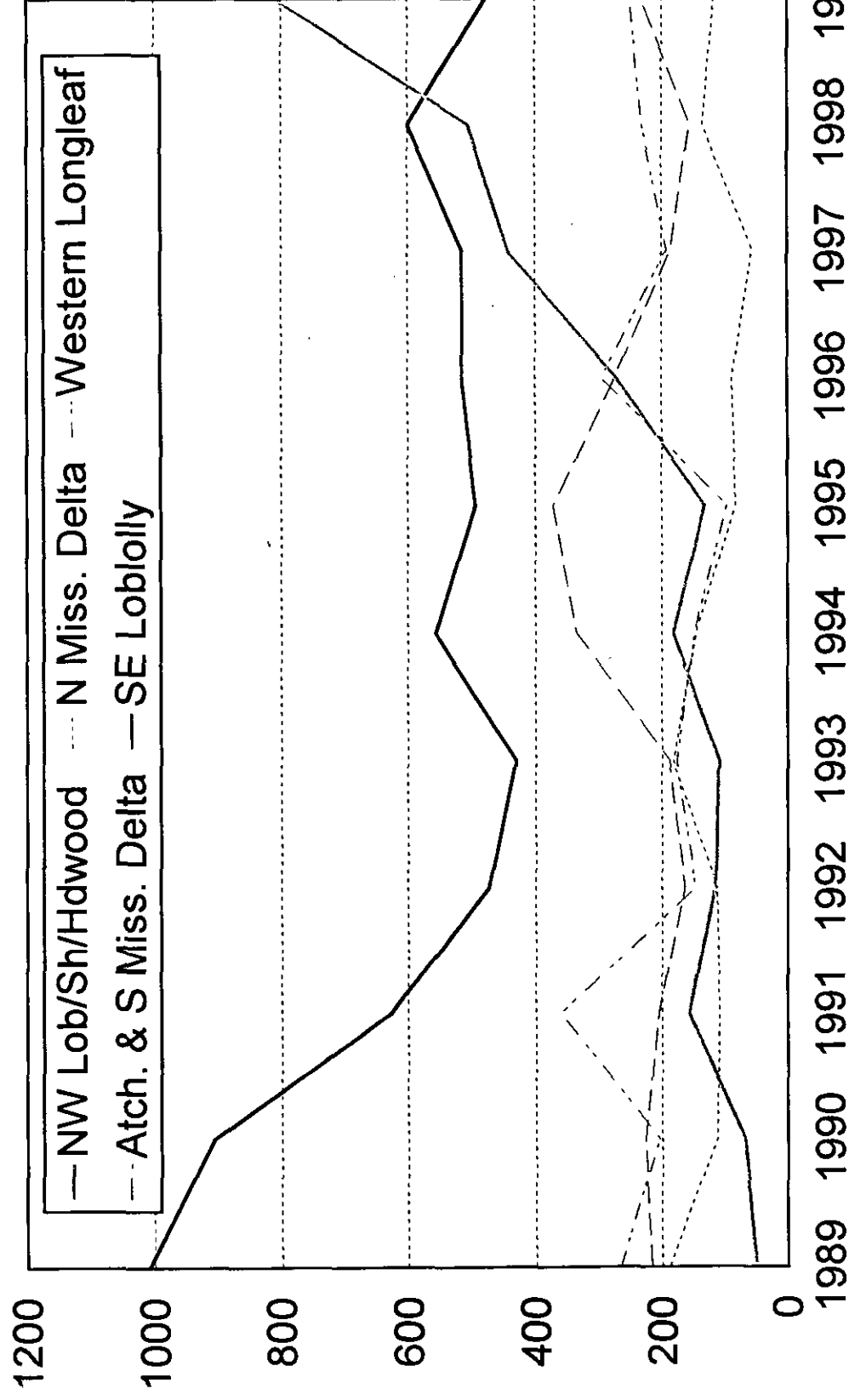


Figure 2

Table 3. 1999 spring turkey harvest report at voluntary weigh stations in Louisiana by historic habitat/geological regions.

Northwest Loblolly/Shortleaf/Hardwood			
Parish	Total Harvest	Adults (%)	Juvenile (%)
Bienville	112	95 (85%)	17 (15%)
Bossier	61	46 (75%)	15 (25%)
Caddo	3	1 (33%)	2 (67%)
Caldwell	12	12 (100%)	0
Claiborne	123	94 (76%)	29 (24%)
DeSoto	13	12 (92%)	1 (8%)
Jackson	128	92 (72%)	36 (28%)
LaSalle	30	25 (83%)	5 (17%)
Lincoln	116	73 (63%)	43 (37%)
Red River	2	2 (100%)	0
Union	186	128 (69%)	58 (31%)
Webster	<u>26</u>	<u>23</u> (88%)	<u>3</u> (12%)
Total	812	603 (74%)	209 (26%)

North Mississippi Delta			
Parish	Total Harvest	Adults (%)	Juvenile (%)
Catahoula	20	17 (85%)	3 (15%)
Concordia	43	20 (47%)	23 (53%)
East Carroll	0	0	0
Franklin	1	1 (100%)	0
Madison	8	5 (63%)	3 (37%)
Morehouse	19	15 (79%)	4 (21%)
Ouachita	4	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Richland	0	0	0
Tensas	22	17 (77%)	5 (23%)
West Carroll	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	117	78 (67%)	39 (33%)

Western Longleaf Pine

Parish	Total Harvest	Adults (%)	Juvenile (%)
Allen	3	2 (67%)	1 (33%)
Beauregard	7	6 (86%)	1 (14%)
Calcasieu	2	2 (100%)	0
Evangeline	0	0	0
Grant	52	41 (79%)	11 (21%)
Jefferson Davis	0	0	0
Natchitoches	76	52 (68%)	24 (32%)
Rapides	36	28 (78%)	8 (22%)
Sabine	27	24 (89%)	3 (11%)
Vernon	48	38 (79%)	10 (21%)
Winn	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	251	193 (77%)	58 (23%)

Atchafalaya and South Mississippi Delta

Parish	Total Harvest	Adults (%)	Juveniles (%)
Ascension	3	3 (100%)	0
Avoyelles	35	21 (60%)	14 (40%)
Iberville	80	61 (76%)	19 (24%)
Point Coupee	41	35 (85%)	6 (15%)
St. Landry	28	18 (64%)	10 (36%)
St. Martin	24	15 (63%)	9 (37%)
West Baton Rouge	<u>23</u>	<u>18 (78%)</u>	<u>5 (22%)</u>
Total	234	171 (73%)	63 (27%)

Southeast Loblolly

Parish	Total Harvest	Adults (%)	Juvenile (%)
East Baton Rouge	5	4 (80%)	1 (20%)
East Feliciana	51	43 (84%)	8 (16%)
Livingston	62	56 (90%)	6 (10%)
St. Helena	77	68 (88%)	9 (12%)
St. Tammany	34	31 (91%)	3 (9%)
Tangipahoa	33	27 (82%)	6 (18%)
Washington	163	151 (93%)	12 (7%)
West Feliciana	<u>52</u>	<u>42 (81%)</u>	<u>10 (9%)</u>
Total	477	422 (88%)	55 (12%)

NATIONAL



WILD TURKEY

FEDERATION

Louisiana Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation FY 1998 Report

WILD TURKEY CENTER
POST OFFICE BOX 530
EDGEFIELD, SC 29824-0530
770 AUGUSTA ROAD
EDGEFIELD, SC 29824-1510
803-637-3106
FAX 803-637-0034

1998 was a very successful year for the Louisiana Chapter of the NWTF. Following is a summary of the 1998 fundraising activities through NWTF Super Fund Membership Banquets compared to 1997.

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Total Gross	\$567,737.51	\$416,368.72
Total Net	\$320,618.03	\$231,148.57
Total Net/Net	\$212,343.03	\$147,833.57
56% Super Fund	\$101,075.27	\$ 70,368.84
24% National Projects	\$ 43,317.98	\$ 30,158.06
15% National Adm.	\$ 26,323.74	\$ 18,848.79
4% Chapter Adm.	\$ 7,219.67	\$ 5,026.38
1% State Chapter Fee	\$ 1,804.92	\$ 1,256.59
Total Regular Members =	2886	2296
Total Sponsor Members =	155	112
Total JAKES Members =	765	703
Total Number Events =	27	23

The Louisiana Chapter of the NWTF is continuing its' growth of fundraising events into new areas of the State which is providing additional funds to work for the wild turkey.

Already in 1999 we have added an additional five new Chapters and fundraising efforts seem to be even much better than previous years. Early projections indicate approximately \$120-\$130,000 for the State Super Fund.

1999		October				1999	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

PERIOD	NO. CASES ASSESSED	AMOUNT ASSESSED	CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS	NO. CASES PAID	AMOUNT PAID	DISCOUNTS TAKEN	Percent Dollars Paid	Percent Cases Paid
FISCAL YEAR 1993-94								
July, 1993	25	21,039	(9,778)	29	4,855	2,545		
Aug., 1993	53	44,922	(1,137)	41	7,950	3,603		
Sept., 1993	42	137,635	(17,938)	35	8,783	3,048		
Oct., 1993	49	21,471	(11,282)	40	3,285	1,519		
Nov., 1993	57	31,207	(13,260)	32	3,053	2,845		
Dec., 1993	53	13,777		27	6,507	6,713		
Jan., 1994	38	18,918		32	4,423	2,831		
Feb., 1994	68	38,131	(8,236)	46	9,124	5,993		
Mar., 1994	38	22,739	(2,482)	51	10,854	6,796		
April, 1994	14	44,732	(1,404)	27	7,307	4,632		
May, 1994	10	4,504	(165)	7	5,447	3,808		
June, 1994	29	26,167	(2,986)	12	1,886	1,214		
Total FY 1994	476	425,242	(68,670)	379	71,474	45,547	27.5%	79.6%
FISCAL YEAR 1994-95								
July, 1994	17	2,127	(335)	23	2,101	1,437		
Aug., 1994	41	96,403	(3,035)	20	1,010	605		
Sept., 1994	34	14,614	(14,002)	26	2,596	2,342		
Oct., 1994	94	17,426	(8,677)	38	2,922	3,179		
Nov., 1994	43	103,592		45	3,992	2,803		
Dec., 1994	68	31,400		35	4,315	2,329		
Jan., 1995	55	27,601		52	7,493	4,921		
Feb., 1995	70	61,119		41	6,472	3,973		
Mar., 1995	31	25,072		44	8,315	4,737		
Apr., 1995	13	15,353		16	3,565	1,538		
May., 1995	23	11,632		18	4,315	654		
June 1995	45	31,008		18	2,630	1,025		
Total FY 1995	534	437,347	(26,049)	374	49,726	29,543	18.1%	70.0%
FISCAL YEAR 1995-96								
July, 1995	0	0						
Aug., 1995	46	17,425		27	9,028	1,729		
Sept., 1995	1	125		21	3,093	2,049		
Oct., 1995	122	206,244		29	2,720	1,161		
Nov., 1995	55	23,124		62	10,151	6,383		
Dec., 1995	50	18,607		32	4,781	2,803		
Jan., 1996	49	13,815	(15,296)	36	5,297	3,473		
Feb., 1996	50	14,717		38	5,778	3,417		
Mar., 1996	33	24,937		36	6,035	3,422		
Apr., 1996	30	11,007		36	7,173	2,712		
May., 1996	23	7,989		24	3,942	2,020		
June 1996	50	22,151		16	2,790	1,182		
Total FY 1996	509	360,141	(15,296)	357	60,787	30,350	25.3%	70.1%
FISCAL YEAR 1996-97								
July, 1996	40	71,694		32	5,250	2,948		
Aug., 1996	32	5,363		32	6,255	3,784		
Sept., 1996	41	7,210		29	2,260	1,327		
Oct., 1996	29	11,093		25	3,698	2,262		
Nov., 1996	20	10,009		22	1,625	698		
Dec., 1996	13	238,466		22	5,877	2,122		
Jan., 1997	27	11,755		17	4,393	2,377		
Feb., 1997	47	18,521		42	8,580	5,553		
Mar., 1997	26	13,434		27	5,000	2,758		
Apr., 1997	10	2,909		15	2,323	1,299		
May., 1997	20	11,683		15	5,199	1,399		
June 1997	5	8,037		10	2,335	765		
Total FY 1997	310	410,373	0	288	52,794	27,290	19.5%	92.9%
FISCAL YEAR 1997 - 98								
July, 1997	10	2,812		8	1,585	823		
Aug., 1997	14	8,741		8	1,496	779		
Sept., 1997	29	19,926		12	2,052	1,278		
Oct., 1997	12	4,717		23	3,185	2,064		
Nov., 1997	23	54,965		10	2,425	1,218		
Dec., 1997	25	36,881		15	4,377	2,776		
Jan., 1998	42	30,026		17	5,300	3,534		
Feb., 1998	37	31,165		29	22,962	8,501		
Mar., 1998	9	13,273		32	9,407	4,372		
Apr., 1998	10	5,628		10	2,603	1,280		
May., 1998	0	225		8	2,885	950		
June 1998	5	2,414		6	1,042	98		
Total FY 1998	216	210,774	0	178	59,317	27,673	41.3%	82.4%
FISCAL YEAR 1998 - 99								
July, 1998	9	1,390		8	1,964	717		
Aug., 1998	10	2,241		10	1,048	372		
Sept., 1998	8	2,769		11	2,000	1,148		
Oct., 1998	22	28,705		14	1,860	807		
Nov., 1998	19	9,138		11	1,766	1,092		
Dec., 1998	23	11,959		27	4,441	2,041		
Jan., 1999	41	21,180		18	6,622	3,838		
Feb., 1999	45	26,236		41	12,119	6,924		
Mar., 1999	15	7,550		33	8,282	4,138		
Apr., 1999	9	8,014		14	3,036	1,388		
May., 1999	5	5,161		5	906	405		
June 1999								
Total FY 1999	206	124,342	0	192	44,044	22,872	53.8%	93.2%

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 1-JUN-1999

CURRENT MONTH
05/01/1999 TO 05/31/1999FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
07/01/1998 TO 05/31/1999INCEPTION TO DATE
05/31/1999ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION

# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT
5	\$4,711.23	206	\$123,391.96	3,799	\$2,593,049.45
12	\$450.00	31	\$925.00	181	\$4,675.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	331	\$269,865.45-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	148	\$71,951.21

RESTITUTION ASSESSED

5	\$5,161.23	206	\$124,316.96	3,799	\$2,399,810.21
PAYMENTS					
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	\$905.50-	173	\$44,043.81-	2,527	\$441,953.54-
OVERPAYMENTS	\$405.00-	147	\$22,661.93-	1,765	\$217,196.15-
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	\$0.00	21	\$884.18	120	\$2,711.58
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	\$0.00	7	\$837.54	45	\$8,197.87
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$18,449.45-
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$10,601.49
RETURNED CHECKS	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	18	\$78,254.09
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS				1	\$36.75
DEBITS					
CREDITS	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$35.00
REASSESSMENTS	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	13	\$10.22-
DEBITS					
CREDITS	\$0.00	2	\$313.48	21	\$6,881.15
WRITE-OFFS	\$0.00	4	\$2,296.01-	58	\$36,391.47-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	\$0.00	1	\$0.18-	208	\$138,113.82-
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	6	\$1,399.24-
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	\$6,982.00-	0	\$6,966.00-	0	\$11,261.59-
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	\$668.86-	4	\$45,609.46-	33	\$73,542.36-
	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00

** TOTAL OUTSTANDING

1,056 \$1,568,210.30

FOOTNOTE:

PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	0	6	\$175.00	64	\$11,269.67
AMOUNT PAID TO COLLECTOR			\$43.75		\$2,817.41
FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	1	2	\$0.00	4	\$3,202.60 *

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 1-JUN-1999

	CURRENT MONTH 05/01/1999 TO 05/31/1999		FISCAL YEAR TO DATE 07/01/1998 TO 05/31/1999		INCEPTION TO DATE 05/31/1999	
	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	1,098	\$55,600.00	8,288	\$420,150.00	72,281	\$3,675,347.07
HEARING COSTS	253	\$6,325.00	1,396	\$34,876.00	15,930	\$398,476.00
DEBITS	0	\$100.00-	2	\$550.00-	2	\$4,475.00-
CREDITS		=====		=====		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$61,825.00		\$454,476.00		\$4,069,348.07

PAYD IN FULL	451	\$23,574.20-	5,023	\$267,078.31-	39,474	\$2,045,828.87-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	5	\$200.00-	89	\$4,166.40-	1,126	\$50,953.37-
OVERPAYMENTS	0	\$0.00	48	\$3,450.75	768	\$23,835.34
REFUNDS	0	\$0.00	32	\$1,175.00	139	\$7,104.31
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00	4	\$200.00	57	\$3,050.00
MISC CHANGES						
DEBITS	0	\$0.00	4	\$80.00	57	\$965.00
CREDITS	1	\$0.80-	9	\$7.04-	165	\$153.63-
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION						
DEBITS	0	\$0.00	3	\$150.00	113	\$6,750.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	14	\$800.00-
VOIDS	37	\$1,850.00-	572	\$23,300.00-	3,864	\$163,725.73-
NOT GUILTY	6	\$300.00-	40	\$1,200.00-	588	\$29,275.00-
						=====

TOTAL OUTSTANDING

\$1,820,316.12

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES
FROM CITATION DATEAGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES
FROM HEARING DATE

	CURRENT	PRE HEARING
1 - 30 DAYS	683	2,158
31 - 90 DAYS	586	2,357
91 - 180 DAYS	820	40
181 - 365 DAYS	479	1,498
OVER 1 YEAR UNCOLLECTABLE	1,821	619
OVER 1 YEAR PENDING	0	0
OVER 1 YEAR (OTHER)	24,650	22,367
	\$1,580,261.12	\$1,458,711.12

SCHEDULE FOR FINAL RULES TO BE PUBLISHED IN STATE REGISTER

JULY-99	RULE - 1999-2000 Hunting Season Dates
	RULE - General & WMA Hunting Rules & Regulations
SEPT-99	RULE - Deer Management Assistance Program
	RULE - Isles Dernieres Barrier Islands Refuge
OCT-99	RULE - Black Bass Regulations, Lake Fausse Point/ Lake Dauterive Complex

Mailed original
to Mr. Busbie
5/18/99.

M
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N
I

LOUISIANA
OYSTERS
Oyster Task Force

At the request of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force (LOTF), I am writing to the Commission to have you consider removing the requirement for fisherman to sign the bottom of the trip ticket forms.

It is the consensus of the LOTF that obtaining this signature is not practical because dealers, in most cases, do not pick up seafood from the fisherman, so the drivers become agents for the dealers. Furthermore, dealers have been required to report landings for years and were not required to have fisherman sign the landing reports.

The requirement for fisherman to sign the landing forms is of no use to the Department, so in our opinion that requirement should be removed from the regulation.

The LOTF would like for the Commission to consider removing the fisherman signature requirement at the next Commission meeting.

If you have questions or concerns about this matter, the LOTF would be prepared to speak at the next Commission meeting about the matter if necessary or the Commission can send a member to discuss the purpose of the fisherman's signature at our next LOTF meeting.

Sincerely,

Al Sunseri

Al Sunseri
Chairman

cc: Secretary James Jenkins

RECEIVED

MAY 04 1999

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1600 Canal Street, Suite 210

New Orleans, LA 70112

1.800.222.4017

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

99-115

5/28/99

AMENDED AGENDA FOR JUNE COMMISSION MEETING

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will hold its next regular meeting on Thursday, June 3, 1999 at 10 a.m. The meeting is open to the public and will take place in the Louisiana Room at Department of Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters, 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge.

The agenda follows.

1. Roll call
2. Approval of minutes of May, 6 1999
3. Donation by the Bowhunters Association for the Waddill Outdoor Education Center
4. Incentive awards presentation to two Department employees
5. Public comments — 1999-2000 hunting regulations
6. Public comments — DMAP rules
7. Marsh Island alligator hunt report and proposal
8. Black bass regulations, Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive complex
9. Enforcement and Aviation reports/May
10. Division reports
 - a. Announce grand opening of the Waddill Outdoor Education Center
 - b. Statewide turkey report and drawing for shotguns
11. Set October 1999 meeting date
12. Public comments
13. Adjournment

May 28, 1999

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: 

AMENDED AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 3, 1999, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
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3. Donation by the Bowhunters Association for the Waddill Outdoor Education Center
4. Incentive Awards Presentation to two Department Employees
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Hawkins, Susan

From: Ledoux, Linda

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 1999 1:46 PM

To: Hawkins, Susan; Calais, Paula

Cc: Bowman, Philip; Prickett, Tommy; Patton, James; Goings, Joan

Subject: Commission Meeting Presentations of Checks

We have two employees who will receive premium pay for credentials/training. I have worked with Eileen to make an over sized check for the presentation (Mr. Jenkin's signature is still needed) and Sandra regarding the actual money on their payroll check, and Thomas for the facts regarding the article. What do I need to do regarding the Commission Meeting/presenter of the check for the June 3rd meeting. The individuals are James Davis, Wildlife and Charlotte Naquin, Purchasing.

Linda C. LeDoux

Human Resource Manager
La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

99-114

5/26/99

AGENDA SET FOR JUNE COMMISSION MEETING

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will hold its next regular meeting on Thursday, June 3, 1999 at 10 a.m. The meeting is open to the public and will take place in the Louisiana Room at Department of Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters, 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge.

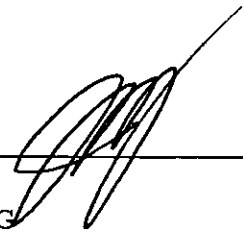
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12. Adjournment

May 25, 1999

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, is written over the line following the word 'APPROVED:'.

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

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State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
May 25, 1999

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: June Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 3, 1999, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 6, 1999
3. Donation by the Bowhunters Association for the Waddill Outdoor Education Center

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

4. Public Comments - 1999-2000 Hunting Regulations
5. Public Comments - DMAP Rule
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OFFICE OF FISHERIES

7. Black Bass Regulations, Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive Complex

Page 2
Commission Meeting
May 25, 1999

WINTON VIDRINE

8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May

DIVISION REPORTS

- 9a. Announce Grand Opening of the Waddill Outdoor Education Center
- b. Statewide Turkey Report and Drawing for Shotguns
- 10. Set October 1999 Meeting Date
- 11. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Catherine Blades
Division Chiefs

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Bill Busbice

Fax #: 318-837-1423

Subject: Agenda

Date: May 24, 1999

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please review the attached agenda for the June 3rd Commission Meeting and then give me a call.
Thanks.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806
Fax: 225-765-0948

, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: June Commission Meeting Agenda

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OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

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OFFICE OF FISHERIES

7. Black Bass Regulations, Lake Fausse Point/Lake Dauterive Complex

Page 2
Commission Meeting
, 1999

WINTON VIDRINE

8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May

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Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Catherine Blades
Division Chiefs

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

May 21, 1999

TO: Susan Hawkins
FROM: Bennie Fontenot *BFm*
SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda, June 3, 1999

Please add the following Inland Fisheries Division item to the June 3, 1999
Commission Meeting agenda:

"Black Bass Length Regulations, Lakes Fausse Point – Dauterive, Complex".

Thank you

BJF:lr

c: John Roussel

REC'D

MAY 24 1999

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Hawkins, Susan

From: Foote, Karen
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 1999 12:04 PM
To: Roussel, John E
Cc: Hawkins, Susan; Greeson, Cathy
Subject: June Commission agenda

At this point, Marine Fisheries has no items for the June agenda.

Please note that there may be additions to the agenda if the long awaited federal final red snapper fall seasons/sizes are published.

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

May 4, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr. *[Signature]* Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - June 3, 1999

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Tuesday, May 18th any agenda items your office may have for the **Thursday, June 3rd** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on June 3rd. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Lyle Soniat ✓
Brandt Savoie
Catherine Blades

I+E

*1) Waddill Classroom building
Dedication
2) Louisiana Tradition Bowmans
Association, Russell Lantier,
present \$2,500 for Waddill classroom
mural*

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

May 4, 1999

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Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Lyle Soniat
Brandt Savoie
Catherine Blades

- 1) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON 1999-2000 Hunting Regulation
- 2) Public Comment DMAP Rule
- 3) Div. Reports - ~~Statewide~~ Turkey Report & Shotgun Drawing

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
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M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
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May 4, 1999

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[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten signature]

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
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M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
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May 4, 1999

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Brandt Savoie ✓
Catherine Blades

*Marsh Island Alligator Hunt Report
and Proposal.*

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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Catherine Blades

NO ITEMS
2

May-04-99 10:49A

D 02

State of Louisiana



Post-it* Fax Note 7671		Date 5/7/99	# of pages 1
To Susan Hawkins	From Catherine Blades		
Co./Dept. WL+F	Co. LA Sfa. Tsd.		
Phone # 225-765-2806	Phone # 504-568-5693		
Fax # 225-765-0948	Fax # 504-568-5668		

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
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*Susan -
I don't have anything to add -
Thanks!
Catherine*

An Equal Opportunity Employer

State of Louisiana



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